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(54) Title: REPEATERS FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

(57) Abstract: A flat-panel repeater includes a housing having a pair of oppositely facing surfaces, at least one antenna element mounted to each of the surfaces for radiating energy in a direction opposite to that of an antenna element mounted to the other of the surfaces, and an electronic circuit mounted within the housing and operatively coupling signals between at least one antenna element on each of the oppositely facing surfaces of the module. Isolation between the antennas on opposite sides of the repeater is improved by various techniques, such as use of adaptive cancellation which removes a significant portion of the feedback signal power, therefore increasing the total system isolation by the same amount. This additional isolation can be used to achieve greater system gain, and therefore significantly extend the range of the system. The repeater may also include a beamforming arrangement for creating a desired antenna pattern of one antenna relative to a base station.

REPEATERS FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates generally to repeaters for use in wireless communication
5 systems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a flat-panel repeater system having a housing having a pair of oppositely facing surfaces, at least one antenna element mounted to each of the surfaces for radiating energy in a direction opposite to that of an antenna element mounted to
10 the other of the surfaces, and an electronic circuit mounted within the housing and operatively coupling signals between at least one antenna element on each of the oppositely facing surfaces of the module.

One preferred embodiment of the invention improves isolation between the antennas on opposite sides of the flat-panel repeater by use of adaptive cancellation which removes a
15 significant portion (between 10 dB and 40 dB) of the feedback signal power, therefore increasing the total system isolation by the same amount (10 to 40 dB). This additional isolation can be used to achieve greater system gain, and therefore significantly extend the range of the system. The cancellation scheme uses digitally processed information to generate a signal, which, when added to the original input signal, cancels the feedback signal.
20 This is especially useful in a side-side repeater.

In one particular embodiment of the invention having a base-station-facing antenna mounted on one of the opposing sides of the housing and a mobile-facing antenna mounted on the other of the opposing sides of the housing, the two antennas each comprise an array of antenna elements, and a beamforming arrangement creates a desired antenna pattern of the
25 base-station-facing antenna relative to a base station and a desired antenna pattern of the mobile-facing antenna relative to subscriber equipment.

In a further aspect of the invention, the problem of equal gain combining with a mobile signal source is overcome by the use of polarization diversity in a repeater. The vertical and horizontal field components in a communications link are highly uncorrelated,
30 and thus by using receive antennas that have the same phase center and orthogonal polarizations, the problem of location-induced phase variation is eliminated. Therefore, an equal gain combiner can be utilized that has a fixed phase adjustment dependent only on the

fixed phase differences of the repeater equipment, and not upon the changing location of the mobile signal source.

The invention provides a repeater diversity system comprising a main null antenna having a given phase center and polarization for receiving a communications signal from a 5 remote signal source, a donor antenna for transmitting a signal to a base station, a diversity null antenna having the same phase center as the main null antenna and a polarization orthogonal to the polarization of the main null antenna, a combining network coupled to the main null antenna and the diversity null antenna for combining the signals therefrom, and an uplink channel module coupled with the combining network for delivering diversity 10 combined receive signals to the donor antenna.

Another aspect of the invention uses simple RF electronics, and Butler matrix technology, to provide a mechanism to electronically steer an antenna beam toward the direction of the base station. A planar antenna, which may have a multiplicity of antenna elements, is used to generate a plurality of RF beams, via the RF Butler matrix. Each beam is 15 presented to an RF switch. The controlled switch toggles each beam, and the best beam is selected for RF input/output port(s). Additionally, the use of this antenna results in a narrow beam that reduces view to interfering signals and therefore increases the carrier-to-interference (C/I) ratio of the system.

The invention provides a radio frequency switched beam planar antenna system 20 comprising a support structure, a plurality of antenna elements mounted to the support structure, a Butler matrix mounted to the support member, the Butler matrix having a plurality of inputs coupled respectively with the antenna elements and a plurality of outputs, and a radio frequency switching circuit mounted to the support structure and operatively coupled with the outputs of the Butler matrix and having a control port responsive to a 25 control signal for causing the switching circuit to select one of the outputs of the Butler matrix at a time.

The present invention also provides a system for re-transmitting a GPS signal or other received satellite signals inside a structure. The system receives the satellite signal, amplifies the received signal to produce a second satellite signal, and re-transmits the second signal 30 inside the structure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a flat-panel repeater embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the repeater of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of another flat-panel repeater embodying the invention;

FIG. 4 is an exploded view of the repeater of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a schematic representation of a repeater module in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

5 FIG. 6 is a schematic representation of another form of repeater module in accordance with another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged end elevation of one of the RF choke frames in the repeater of FIGs. 3 and 4;

10 FIG. 8 and FIG. 9 are a perspective view and a partial side sectional view of another embodiment of an RF choke structure for a flat-panel repeater;

FIG. 10 and FIG. 11 are a perspective view and a partial side sectional view of another embodiment of an RF choke structure for a flat-panel repeater;

15 FIG. 12 and FIG. 13 are a perspective view and a partial side sectional view of another embodiment of an RF choke structure for a flat-panel repeater;

FIG. 14 and FIG. 15 are side sectional and top views, respectively, of a reduced surface wave (RSW) patch antenna;

FIG. 16 is a simplified perspective illustration of one form of flat-panel repeater in accordance with one form of the invention;

20 FIG. 17 is a simplified illustration of a second form of flat-panel repeater in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 18 is a simplified perspective illustration showing another embodiment of a flat-panel repeater;

FIG. 19 is a diagrammatic representation of an in-building repeater system in accordance with the invention;

25 FIGS. 20 and 21 are simplified illustrations of repeater modules in accordance with other forms of the invention;

FIG. 22 is a diagrammatic representation of another form of in-building repeater system in accordance with the invention;

30 FIG. 23a is a diagrammatic illustration of a system for distributing signals from multiple wireless services throughout a building;

FIG. 23b is a diagrammatic illustration of a PCS converter used in the system of FIG. 23a;

FIG. 24 is a block diagram of one signal path through a repeater system;

FIG. 25 is a block diagram of one signal path through a repeater system, as in FIG. 24, adding an adaptive cancellation circuit;

FIG. 26 is a block diagram (high level) of a (digitally) adaptive cancellation circuit in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

5 FIG. 27 is a block diagram (high level) of the (digitally) adaptive cancellation circuit of FIG. 26 which shows the technique in further detail;

FIG. 28 is a block diagram of a repeater system, similar to that of FIG. 17, using the adaptive cancellation (AC) circuit of FIGS. 26 and 27;

FIGs. 29 and 30 show the directional characteristics of the AC blocks, for the 10 downlink path (FIG. 29) and the uplink path (FIG. 30);

FIGs. 31 and 33 show two examples of side-to-side repeaters;

FIGs. 32 and 34 show block diagrams of the side-to-side repeater systems of FIGS. 31 and 33, respectively, with the addition of adaptive cancellation;

FIG. 35 is a simplified view of a repeater system of the prior art;

15 FIG. 36 is a simplified view, in a form similar to FIG. 35, showing a repeater in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 37 is a diagrammatic illustration of beam steering in an integrated repeater system of the invention;

FIG. 38 is a block schematic diagram of one form of a repeater in accordance with the 20 invention, utilizing a duplexed antenna;

FIG. 39 is a block schematic similar to FIG. 38 but illustrating implementation with separate transmit and receive antennas;

FIG. 40 is a simplified illustration of a patch antenna array;

FIG. 41 is a simplified representation, in a form similar to FIG. 40, of a dipole 25 antenna array;

FIGs. 42 and 43 are flowcharts or flow diagrams of a repeater setup program in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 44 is a flowchart or flow diagram of one embodiment of a repeater main operation loop;

30 FIG. 45 is a functional diagram showing beamsteering via a Butler matrix;

FIG. 46 is a simplified schematic diagram showing beamsteering using phase shifters;

FIG. 47 is a perspective view of a flat-panel repeater design;

FIG. 48 is a perspective view illustrating a beamsteering scheme via tilting of flat panel arrays similar to the flat panel array of FIG. 47;

FIG. 49 and FIG. 50 are two diagrammatic representations of beamsteering using striplines of different lengths;

5 FIG. 51 is a perspective view of a solar-powered battery for a repeater;

FIG. 52 is a diagrammatic illustration of a modified in-building repeater system using physically separated antennas;

FIGs. 53-53g are diagrammatic illustrations of modified repeaters using physically separated antennas;

10 FIG. 54 is a diagrammatic illustration of another modified repeater using physically separated antennas;

FIG. 55 is a functional block diagram of a single repeater cell of a side-to-side repeater for a TDD communication system in accordance with one form of the invention;

15 FIG. 56 shows in diagrammatic form multiple cells having the general configuration shown in FIG. 55;

FIG. 57 is a somewhat diagrammatic view showing a repeater in accordance with one form of the invention;

FIG. 58 is a simplified elevation showing a repeater tower structure in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

20 FIG. 59 is a circuit schematic illustrating a diversity repeater system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 60 is a circuit schematic illustrating a diversity repeater system in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention;

25 FIG. 61 is a simplified showing of two antennas having the same phase center and mutually orthogonal polarizations;

FIG. 62 is a block diagram showing a plurality of antenna elements coupled to an RF Butler matrix;

FIG. 63 shows an example of a beam pattern for one of the spatial (antenna) elements of FIG. 62;

30 FIG. 64 shows a system, similar to FIG. 62 using four antennas;

FIG. 65 shows an approximate azimuth beamwidth response for the Butler matrix in FIG. 64;

FIG. 66 is a plan view, somewhat diagrammatic in form, of a planar switched beam antenna system;

FIG. 67 is a simplified top view of one of the patch antenna elements of the system of FIG. 66;

5 FIG. 68 is a simplified diagram of an RF switch of the system of FIG. 66;

FIG. 69 is a block diagram of the circuit of FIG. 66;

FIG. 70 is a block diagram similar to FIG. 69 with an RF to IF transceiver (transverter) added;

FIG. 71 is a block diagram similar to FIG. 70 with a modem added;

10 FIG. 72 is a simplified perspective view of a planar system (unit), indicating the elements of FIG. 71;

FIG. 73 is a view, similar in form to FIG. 66, showing an embodiment having separate transmit and receive antenna elements;

FIG. 74 is a block diagram of the circuit of FIG. 73;

15 FIG. 75 shows the circuit of FIG. 74, adding an RF to IF downconverter (or receiver) for the receive mode, and IF to RF upconverter (or transmitter/exciter) for the transmit mode;

FIG. 76 shows the circuit of FIG. 75, adding a modem;

FIG. 77 shows a system similar to FIG. 66, using elevation arrays in place of single array elements;

20 FIG. 78 is a simplified view in a form similar to FIG. 720, showing 360 degree coverage, employing two such systems, back to back, to generate, in effect, an omnidirectional system;

FIG. 79 shows an alternative structure for obtaining 360 degree coverage, using dipole antenna elements on a PCB;

25 FIG. 80 shows approximate azimuth beams for the system of FIG. 79;

FIG. 81 is a simplified perspective view showing an indoor installation of a system in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 82 is a perspective view of a flat panel antenna for a laptop or similar portable computer; and

30 FIG. 83 is a perspective view showing a laptop computer with the flat panel antenna of FIG. 82.

FIG. 84 is a diagrammatic top plan view of a repeater having multiple mobile-facing antennas to provide wider angle coverage;

FIG. 85 is a schematic diagram of an electronic system for use in the repeater of FIG. 84;

FIG. 86 is a diagrammatic top plan view of a repeater having a modified mobile-facing antenna for providing wide-angle coverage;

5 FIG. 87 is a diagrammatic top plan view of a repeater having another modified mobile-facing antenna for providing wide-angle coverage;

FIG. 88 is a diagrammatic top plan view of a repeater having a mobile-facing base-station-facing antennas in planes that are not parallel to each other;

10 FIG. 89 is a diagrammatic side elevation of a building containing a repeater for re-transmitting signals in a direction orthogonal to the direction in which the signals are received;

FIG. 90 is a structure that includes a GPS repeater system according to one embodiment of the invention;

15 FIG. 91 is another structure that includes a GPS repeater system according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 92 is a block diagram of a primary GPS repeater used in the GPS repeater systems of FIGs. 90 and 91;

FIG. 93 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a gain block used in the primary GPS repeater of FIG. 92;

20 FIG. 94 is a block diagram of another embodiment of the gain block of FIG. 92;

FIG. 95 is a block diagram of another primary GPS repeater used in the GPS repeater systems of FIGs. 90 and 91;

FIG. 96 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a gain block used in the primary GPS repeater of FIG. 95;

25 FIG. 97 is a block diagram of a secondary GPS repeater used in the GPS repeater system of FIG. 91; and

FIG. 98 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a gain block used in the secondary GPS repeater of FIG. 97.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

30 FIGs. 1 and 2 illustrate a preferred embodiment of a flat-panel repeater, having a pair of flanged radomes 10 and 11 on opposite sides of a choke frame 12. Adjacent the inside surface of the radome 10 is a dielectric sheet 13 carrying four printed dipoles 14 that form the mobile-facing antenna for the mobile side of the repeater. The electronics for connecting the

antenna to the necessary diplexers, filters, and power amplifiers are contained within a metal housing 15, and the antenna sheet 13 is fastened to one side of the housing 15. The antenna feed 16 is connected directly to one of the diplexers in the electronic circuitry, which will be described in more detail below. The housing 15 is captured within the choke frame 12, 5 which forms multiple, spaced, concentric fins 72a -72d for improving the side-to-side (antenna-to-antenna) isolation of the flat-panel repeater, thereby improving the gain performance or stability margin (the difference or safety margin between isolation and gain). The structure of the fins 72a-d will also be described in more detail below.

The antenna elements on the opposite side of the repeater are mounted adjacent the 10 inside surface of the radome 11. Thus, a pair of dipoles 14a are printed on a dielectric sheet 13a to form the base-station-facing antenna for the base-station side of the repeater. The antenna feed 16a is connected directly to one of the diplexers in the electronic circuitry, as described in more detail below. The dielectric sheet 13a is fastened to the opposite side of the metal housing 15 from the sheet 13. As can be seen in FIG. 2, the dipoles 14 are 15 orthogonal to the dipoles 14a to improve isolation between the two antennas.

To facilitate mounting of the repeater on a flat surface, a mounting bracket 17 has a stem 18 that fits into a socket 19 in the frame 12. The bracket 17 has several holes through it to receive screws for attaching the bracket 17 to the desired surface. Electrical power can also be supplied to the repeater through power supply lines (not shown) passing through the 20 mounting bracket 17 and its stem 18 into the frame 12. The interface between the frame 12 and the bracket stem preferably allows rotation between the frame 12 and the mounting bracket 17 in successive angular increments, such as 5° increments, to facilitate precise positioning of the repeater. For example, the repeater might be rotated through successive increments while monitoring the strength of the received and/or transmitted signals, to 25 determine the optimum orientation of the repeater, e.g., in alignment with a broadcast antenna whose signals are to be amplified and re-broadcast. Conventional detents can be used to indicate the successive increments, and to hold the repeater at each incremental position until it is advanced to the next position.

As can be seen in FIG. 1, the flat-panel repeater comprises a closely spaced stacked 30 array of planar components that form a compact unit that can be easily mounted with the antennas already aligned relative to each other. The height and width of the unit are a multiple of the thickness dimension, e.g., 7 to 8 times the thickness. The thickness dimension is preferably no greater than about six inches, and the greater of said height and

width dimensions is preferably no greater than about two feet. It is particularly preferred that the thickness dimension be no greater than about three inches, and the greater of said height and width dimensions no greater than about 1.5 feet. Most preferably, the thickness dimension is no greater than about two inches, and the greater of the height and width dimensions is no greater than about one foot.

FIGs. 3 and 4 illustrate a flat-panel repeater 20 having a pair of flat radomes 21 and 22 on opposite sides thereof. Each radome 21 and 22 covers one or more antenna elements for receiving and transmitting signals on opposite sides of the repeater. In the illustrative embodiment, the antenna elements are the patches of patch-type antennas, but it will be understood that alternative antenna elements such as dipoles or monopoles may be used. As can be seen in FIG. 4, a pair of patches 23 and 24 are printed on a dielectric plate 25 mounted adjacent the inside surface of the radome 21. The dielectric plate 25 seats in a recess 27 formed by a metal plate 28 that also forms a ground plane for the patches 23 and 24. The plate 25 seats on multiple plastic standoffs 27a connected to the plate 28 within the recess 27, and a pair of coaxial connectors 27b extend through the plate 28 for connection to the patches 23 and 24. The inner conductors of the connectors 27b are connected to the patches 23 and 24, while the outer conductors are connected to the ground plane 28. The opposite ends of the connectors 27b are connected to the RF circuitry on the board 36. Because the dielectric plate 25 is recessed within the ground plane, the patches 23 and 24 are substantially flush with the surface of the ground plane.

It can be seen that the ground plane formed by the metal plate 25 is considerably larger than the antenna patches 23 and 24, and the patches are positioned in the central region of the ground plane. These features offer significant advantages in improving the isolation between the two antennas, which in turn improves the gain performance or stability margin of the repeater, as will be discussed in more detail below. In general, the ratio of the total ground-plane area to the central area occupied by the antenna elements is in the range of about 2 to 5, and is preferably about 5, to achieve the desired isolation.

The repeater 20 includes a three-part frame, consisting of a central frame member 29 and a pair of RF-choke frames 30 and 31 attached to opposite sides of the central member 29. The periphery of the ground-plane plate 27 is captured within a slot in the inner periphery of the choke frame 30. The central frame member 29 is essentially closed on one side by an integral wall 32 that forms a bottom ground plane, and the interior of the member contains several electronic units (e.g., printed circuit boards) and a power connector 33. A top

ground-plane plate 34 closes the open side of the frame member 29, and is attached to a peripheral flange 35 on the frame member 29. A second group of electronic units are mounted on a board 36 attached to the outside of the ground-plane plate 34.

The antenna elements on the opposite side of the repeater are mounted adjacent the 5 inside surface of the radome 22. Thus, a pair of patches 37 and 38 are printed on a dielectric plate 39 seated in a recess 40 formed by a metal plate 41 that also forms a ground plane for the patches 37 and 38. As can be seen in FIG. 4, the patches 23, 24 are orthogonal to the patches 37, 38 to improve isolation between the antennas on opposite sides of the repeater.

The periphery of the ground-plane plate 41 is captured within a slot in the inner periphery of 10 the second choke frame 31. The patch plate 39 seats on multiple plastic standoffs 40a connected to the plate 41 within the recess 40, and a pair of coaxial connectors 40b extend through the plate 41 for connection to the patches 37 and 38. The inner conductors of the connectors 40b are connected to the patches 37 and 38, while the outer conductors are connected to the ground plane 41. The opposite ends of the connectors 40b are connected to 15 the RF circuitry on the board 36. Multiple gaskets G are provided for sealing purposes.

An antenna is (simplifying somewhat) a path by which electrons get accelerated back and forth (i.e. a "race-track"). For example, in a dipole antenna, electrons accelerate from one end, towards the center (where they have the greatest velocity), then de-accelerate towards the other end (where the velocity is the slowest). They then turn around and 20 accelerate back the other way. They do this at the rate of the resonant frequency of the antenna. The feed point of the antenna (for a dipole, at the center) is the position in which the electrons are moving the fastest. Thus, voltage (potential) of the antenna is tapped from this position. Electromagnetic energy therefore radiates from the ends of an antenna element (dipole or patch) in the direction of the accelerating electrons. This direction is called the 25 antenna polarization (direction). Displacement currents (virtual electrons) therefore go from one end of the dipole, curve out in space, and terminate at the other end of the dipole. For two adjacent antennas, oriented in the same direction, where one is transmitting (active) and the other is receiving (passive), the active antenna pushes virtual electrons into space which terminate on the passive antenna. These virtual electrons then force the actual electrons on 30 the surface of the passive antenna to accelerate, and induce a potential at its feed point.

However, if the two antennas are not oriented in the same direction (being orthogonal...or perpendicular; for instance) then the active antenna cannot accelerate electrons on the other (passive) antenna. The "race-track" on the passive antenna is extremely short. These

antennas are considered orthogonal, and therefore do not couple. Orthogonal antennas, on opposite sides of the repeater, do not couple and therefore appear isolated from each other. Thus, the system gain is increased without inducing ringing.

The RF electronic circuitry and antennas for the repeaters of FIGs. 1-4 is illustrated in 5 more detail in FIGs. 5-8. Two different system architectures are shown in FIGs. 5 and 6.

FIG. 5 shows an architecture for a two-antenna system, in which each of two antennas 52 and 54 operates in both the transmit and receive modes. For example, the first antenna 52 might be used to receive incoming RF signals from, and transmit signals to, a transmitter or another repeater, that is, in the link mode. The other antenna 54 would then be utilized in the 10 broadcast/repeat mode to transmit signals to, and receive signals from, the user equipment, such as a remote handset or terminal, or to transmit a signal to a further repeater in a system using multiple repeaters to broadcast or distribute signals.

An electronics module 60 connected to both antennas 52 and 54 includes a pair of frequency diplexers (D) 61, 62 to effectively connect received signals from either antenna to 15 only the receive circuitry for that antenna and not to the transmit circuitry for that same antenna, and to effectively connect transmit signals from the transmit circuitry to only the antenna and not to the receive circuitry for that same antenna. For example, RF signals received by the antenna 52 are routed through the diplexer 61 to a receive path that includes a filter 63 to attenuate the reverse link band, an amplifier 64 to amplify the RF, and then 20 another filter 65 to protect the amplifier 64 from signal power on the other path. The second diplexer 62 then delivers the signal to the antenna 54 which re-transmits the amplified signal. In the reverse direction, the antenna 54 receives signals that are fed through the diplexer 62 to a second path including similar filters 66, 67 and a similar amplifier 68 which operate in the same manner as the first circuit to feed signals through the diplexer 61 to be transmitted at the 25 antenna 52.

FIG. 6 shows a four-antenna architecture that includes two pairs of antennas 52a, 54a and 52b, 54b on opposite sides of the repeater. The antennas 52a, 52b on one side may be used for the link mode, as described above, one as the downlink antenna and one as an uplink antenna. Similarly, the two antennas 52b, 54b on the other side may be used in the 30 broadcast/repeat mode, as described above, one as an uplink antenna and one as a downlink antenna. Similar electronic circuits or paths including filters and amplifiers are interposed between the respective pairs of antennas 52a, 54a and 52b, 54b. However, because separate pairs of antennas are provided, no frequency diplexers are required in this case.

The filters 63, 65, 66, and 67 are band pass filters selected to reduce the out-of-band signals. For a PCS-based system, the typical band pass bandwidth is approximately 15 MHz, commensurate with the bandwidth of PCS bands C, D, E, F, etc. Cut off and roll-off are performance and specification oriented, and depend on the circuit design.

5 In one embodiment, the amplifiers 64, 68 comprise relatively low power, linear integrated circuit chip components, such as monolithic microwave integrated circuit (MMIC) chips. These chips may comprise chips made by the gallium arsenide (GaAs) heterojunction transistor manufacturing process. However, silicon process chips or CMOS process chips might also be utilized.

10 Some examples of MMIC power amplifier chips are as follows:

1. RF Microdevices PCS linear power amplifier RF 2125P, RF 2125, RF 2126 or RF 2146, RF Micro Devices, Inc., 7625 Thorndike Road, Greensboro, NC 27409, or 7341-D W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410;

15 2. Pacific Monolithics PM 2112 single supply RF IC power amplifier, Pacific Monolithics, Inc., 1308 Moffett Park Drive, Sunnyvale, CA;

3. Siemens CGY191, CGY180 or CGY181, GaAs MMIC dual mode power amplifier, Siemens AG, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY;

4. Stanford Microdevices SMM-208, SMM-210 or SXT-124, Stanford Microdevices, 522 Almanor Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA;

20 5. Motorola MRFIC1817 or MRFIC1818, Motorola Inc., 505 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX;

6. Hewlett Packard HPMX-3003, Hewlett Packard Inc., 933 East Campbell Road, Richardson, TX;

7. Anadigics AWT1922, Anadigics, 35 Technology Drive, Warren, NJ 07059;

25 8. SEI Ltd. P0501913H, 1, Taya-cho, Sakae-ku, Yokohama, Japan; and

9. Celeritek CFK2062-P3, CCS1930 or CFK2162-P3, Celeritek, 3236 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054.

FIGS. 7 and 8 show the choke frame of FIGS. 1 and 2 in more detail. This frame is generally rectangular in configuration and includes multiple fins 70 extending orthogonally outwardly from opposite sides of central flat support members 71 and 72. As can be seen most clearly in the sectional view in FIG. 8, the fins 70 become progressively shorter in the axial direction, and the space between adjacent fins becomes progressively smaller, proceeding from the radially outermost fins 70a to the innermost fins 70d. The fins

preferably have height and spacing dimensions related to one-fourth wavelength at the center frequency of the frequency band being amplified and re-transmitted by the repeater, e.g., the height or projection of the fins relative to the sides of the housing may be on the order of a quarter wavelength. In addition, strips of radio frequency absorber material 74 may be 5 located intermediate some or all of the fins 70 about the peripheral surfaces of the main body of the choke frame. Absorber material is typically a low density dielectric loaded with conductive particles or fibers of carbon or metal, and can even be "tuned" to absorb certain frequencies more than others.

FIG. 9 illustrates in more detail the peripherally extending fins 73 that form the RF 10 choke between the antennas on opposite sides of the flat-panel repeater of FIGS. 3 and 4.

These fins 73 comprise relatively thin strips of conductive material located around the periphery of the RF choke frame. FIGS. 10-13 illustrate alternate embodiments of RF chokes of various forms.

In FIGS. 10 and 11, the RF choke is formed by a series of concentric annular rings 75 15 which extend generally orthogonally relative to the plane of the antenna and around the periphery of the antenna, in contrast to the radially extending fins described above. As can be seen mostly clearly in the sectional view of FIG. 11, the choke rings 75 are formed by a corrugated metal annulus in which the outer wall 75a is slightly shorter than the first full 20 corrugation crest 75b in the axial direction, and then the successive corrugation crests 75c and 75d become progressively shorter in both the axial and radial directions.

The circular choke configuration of FIGS. 10 and 11 has the advantage of providing feedback paths of equal length between all points on the peripheries of the antennas on opposite sides of the repeater. Unwanted feedback occurs via surface currents on the outside surfaces of the panel, and path lengths that are odd multiples of one-half wavelength produce 25 cancellation of the unwanted surface currents. The circular configuration facilitates a choice of dimensions that achieve the desired cancellation of feedback currents because of the uniformity of the lengths of the feedback paths between the two antennas with such a configuration. In general, the repeater is sized and configured for a selected frequency band having a predetermined center frequency and wavelength "X"; the height, width and 30 thickness dimensions of the repeater are selected so that feedback energy at the wavelength "X" travels a feedback path of predetermined length around the repeater to improve the side-to-side isolation.

FIGs. 12 and 13 illustrate a circular configuration for a choke structure similar to that shown in FIGs. 8 and 9. Multiple fins 80 extend orthogonally outwardly in the axial direction from opposite sides of central flat support members 81 and 82. As can be seen most clearly in the sectional view in FIG. 13, the fins 80 become progressively shorter in the axial 5 direction, and the space between adjacent fins becomes progressively smaller, proceeding from the radially outermost fins 80a to the innermost fins 80d.

In an alternative embodiment, a reduced surface wave (RSW) type of antenna structure might be utilized in place of the patch antennas shown in the prior figures. FIGS. 14 and 15 are a side sectional view and a top plan view of one example of a probe-fed, 10 shorted annular ring, reduced surface wave patch antenna 460. An RSW patch antenna element, is simply a patch that focuses more energy in the directed area, and not to the sides near the ground plane. There are many types of RSW patches, but the most common is a recessed patch inside a partial cavity. The cavity walls act as a field suppressor, and "catch" field lines that are directed to the sides of the patch, rather than in a direction perpendicular to 15 the patch and ground plane. If both patches (on opposite sides of the repeater) are RSW patches, then they have reduced coupling (i.e. greater isolation), which allows the system active gain to be increased.

RSW microstrip antennas produce only a small amount of surface-wave radiation. In addition, if printed on electrically thin substrates, these antennas only weakly excite lateral 20 waves (space waves that propagate horizontally along the substrate interface). As a result, these antennas do not suffer from the deleterious effects of surface and lateral wave scattering. These characteristics make the RSW antenna ideal for applications where the supporting substrate or ground plane of the antenna is small, in which case diffraction of the surface and lateral waves from the edges of the structure may be quite significant for 25 conventional microstrip patch antennas. RSW antennas may also be useful for array applications, where the presence of surface and lateral waves for conventional patch radiators produce significant mutual coupling and may lead to scan blindness.

For a given size antenna element (patch, dipole, etc.), increasing the size of the ground plane behind the element reduces the Front to Back (F/B) ratio of the antenna. More 30 specifically, the larger the ground plane, the less energy radiated to the back side. Thus, increasing the size of the faces of the side-to-side repeater reduces the amount of energy that each face radiates to the backward face. Another way of explaining this is that by increasing the size of the repeater, the lower the coupling between the antennas on opposite sides of the

repeater (i.e. patches). This therefore increases the isolation between the antennas, and allows the active gain for the system to be increased. However, where the size of the ground plane is limited by other considerations, the RSW patch technology may be employed.

A preferred RSW design is the Shorted-Annular-Ring Reduced-Surface-Wave (SAR-RSW) antenna. One example of this type of antenna, shown in FIGS. 14 and 15, is a conventional annular ring microstrip antenna 462 with an inner boundary 464 short-circuited to a conducting ground plane 466. The outer radius dimension is chosen to eliminate surface-wave excitation from the equivalent ring of magnetic current at the outer edge of the antenna that corresponds to the TM_{011} cavity patch mode. (The modes are denoted using the notation $TM_{\phi p}$.) The inner radius is chosen to make the patch resonant at the design frequency.

FIGS. 16 and 17 diagrammatically illustrate repeater modules 50 and 50a with patch antennas that correspond respectively to the systems described above. In these examples, microstrip patches are used for the antenna elements 52, 54 (FIG. 16) and 52a, 52b, 54a, 54b (FIG. 17). The module/box or housing 50, 50a may contain a DC power supply or DC power converter, amplifiers, filters and diplexers (if required), as described above. The electronics may be discrete parts, connected together via SMA connectors. For lower power systems, the electronics can be surface mount PCB. A small lamp, LED, or other display element 100 can be used with appropriate RF power sensing electronics 80 (see FIGS. 5 and 6) to aid the provider/user/customer in orienting the unit or module 50 or 50a with a link antenna directed/pointed towards a base station, such that sufficient signal power is being received, i.e., at or above some predetermined threshold.

FIG. 18 illustrates an approach which uses an array of antenna elements in order to increase the passive gain. The example shown in FIG. 18 uses two columns of patch array antenna elements on one face of the module, designated by reference numerals 54a through 54h. The antenna patches 54a through 54d are designated as receive (Rx) elements in the embodiment shown in FIG. 18, while the antenna elements 54e through 54h are designated as transmit (Tx) elements in this embodiment. It will be appreciated that a similar array of antenna elements, corresponding to the antenna elements 52 of the prior embodiments, are mounted to the opposite face (not shown) of the module 50b of FIG. 18. Moreover, fewer or more array elements might be utilized in other patterns than that shown on FIG. 18, without departing from the invention.

In the embodiment shown on FIG. 18, the use of four elements, which are summed together in an array, achieves approximately four times (6dB) the gain of a single receive or

transmit element. Thus, with four elements also on the opposite face (not shown), this adds a total of 12 dBi of additional passive gain to the system, which can be used to reduce the required active gain by as much as 12 dB and also to reduce the required isolation by as much as 12 dB. While the near-field wave mechanics might not permit a full 12 dB to be achieved, 5 nonetheless, some considerable improvement can be expected from this approach. The vertical beam width of the system will be reduced somewhat by this approach.

The antennas on opposite sides of the repeaters described above are "fixed" in position and orientation to assure maximum isolation between the antennas and to receive and transmit a given signal, and therefore maximize system gain. This isolation between 10 antennas is controlled/maximized (and mutual coupling minimized) in the following ways:

- a) The two antennas (or sets of antennas) are positioned such that for each, the F/B ratios sum to a maximum. For example, for a perfectly rectilinear module, the two antennas (or sets of antennas) each face oppositely by 180 degrees, or within an acceptable tolerance.
- b) The two antennas of each path, are polarized in mutually orthogonal 15 (perpendicular) directions, which further reduces the mutual coupling (increases the isolation) by roughly 20 to 30 dB.
- c) Electromagnetic choke or shunt elements are provided on the edges or borders of the module or housing structure to absorb (shunt) power to ground. Alternatively, the four sides of the housing (i.e., excluding the two sides on which the antennas are mounted) may be 20 composed of metallic material and grounded so as to shunt stray electromagnetic energy to ground.

Design of the antennas, beams, and (control of) F/B ratios assures adequate isolation between the two opposing antennas (or antenna sets). The antennas' F/B ratios or isolation is the largest limiter for the total system gain. If desired, the isolation can be further improved 25 by having the wireless connection to the base station on a different frequency band from the remote connection.

The above described repeater modules can be used in a number of applications, a few examples of which are as follows.

- 1) Indoor Repeater (see FIG. 19)

30 The flat-panel repeater can be mounted on a wall or window, at or near a location where the RF signal power from a nearby base station is at its maximum power level (within the building). Power for each repeater can be supplied via either a 120-volt cord and plug 102, or with a 120-volt plug connection 104, built directly into the repeater (see FIGs. 20 and

21). Both allow very simple installation, by the customer. Generally, the RF signal is received, at a power level above the noise floor, from a nearby base station (with the module placed in a location facing the base station), and the repeater re-radiates the (amplified) RF signal into the building. Additionally, signals from remote units (handsets/cellphones) within 5 the building are received by the repeater, amplified, and re-radiated back to the base station 200.

2) Daisy-Chained Indoor Repeater (see FIG. 22)

FIG. 22 shows a plurality of flat-panel repeaters 50 or 50a placed at various locations within a building, "daisy chained" together, to provide greater coverage within the building. 10 This aids in providing coverage to the side of the building opposite to the base station, or any other RF null or "blank" areas within the building. In this way, the provider or customer can cheaply and easily install two or more repeaters, to provide coverage to various areas of the building, such as the side opposite the side nearest the base station, where the RF signal level (from the base station) has low Signal to Noise (ratio), or where there is no signal at all.

15 If it is desired to distribute multiple wireless services within a building, such as PCS, MMDS, LMDS, wireless LAN, cellular telephone, etc., all such signals may be supplied from their receiving antenna(s) to an Ethernet hub before entering the daisy-chained indoor repeaters, as illustrated in FIGs. 23a and 23b. A separate antenna 110 and electronic circuits 111 are provided for each wireless service, and all the circuits 111 are connected to an 20 Ethernet hub 112. Each of the circuits 111 includes a frequency converter for converting signals from the frequency used by the wireless service to an Ethernet frequency. The Ethernet hub 112 controls the forwarding of the signals from the multiple wireless links to the single wired connection from the Ethernet hub 112 to an indoor flat-panel repeater 113, which then relays those signals on to other repeaters such as repeaters 114 and 115 located 25 throughout the interior of the building.

Each of the repeaters 114 and 115 has two antennas on the downlink side. Specifically, a first antenna 114a on the repeater 114 is designed to produce a beam 117 aligned with the next repeater 115, while a second antenna 114b produces a beam 118 that extends laterally through the adjacent portion of the interior of the building to reach all the 30 users in that portion of the building. For user devices that are not part of an Ethernet, such as PCS subscriber units, the signals from the second antenna 114b are received by an Ethernet-to-PCS conversion unit 119 shown in more detail in FIG. 23b. This conversion unit includes an antenna 119a that complies with the IEEE 802.11 standard, a DSP 119b, an RF conversion

circuit 119c for converting the frequency of received signals to the PCS frequency, and a PCS antenna 119d for transmitting the converted signals to PCS users in the building. Of course, the conversion unit 119 also works in the reverse direction, receiving PCS signals from subscriber units at the antenna 119d, converting them to the Ethernet frequency in circuit 5 119c, and transmitting them from antenna 119a to the repeater 114 for re-transmission back to the repeater 113 and the Ethernet hub 112 which selects the appropriate circuit 11 and antenna 110.

3) Outdoor Null Fill Repeater

A single flat-panel repeater can be installed on a tower, instead of a more 10 conventional repeater installation requiring discrete antennas. This provides a smaller, more economical package, and less labor (time) and effort in orienting the antennas to assure adequate isolation between the antennas.

4) Outdoor Repeater to Building

A single flat-panel repeater can be installed on a tower, in the same fashion as above, 15 realizing the same benefits.

The applications mentioned above in 1)-4) are independent of frequency band. That is, any of these applications might be used in any frequency band, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Cellular (800 MHz band)
- 20 b) PCS (1800 and 1900 MHz bands) - (Personal Communications Service)
- c) GSM (900 and 1800 MHz bands) - (Global System for Mobile

communications)

- d) MMDS (2500 MHz band) - (Multi-channel Multipoint Distribution Service)
- e) LMDS (26 GHz band) - (Local Multipoint Distribution Service)

25 f) Bluetooth Applications (2400 MHz band) - (Bluetooth is the name of a wireless protocol standard, created by Ericsson)

- g) Indoor Wireless LANs (2400 MHz band) - (Local Area Network)
- h) 3G (3rd Generation PCS systems) at 1900 MHz (U.S.) and 1800-2200 MHz (Europe)

30 If it is desired to increase the wide-angle coverage of the signals re-transmitted by the repeater, one side of the repeater may be provided with multiple antennas oriented in different directions.

FIG. 24 shows a block diagram of one path through a repeater system. The input signal, $S(t)$, either from the base station (for the downlink path), or from the mobile user (for the uplink path), is received via an antenna 120, bandpass filtered at 126a, amplified at 128 (with active gain = G), filtered again at 126b, and finally transmitted by an antenna 122.

5 Some of the transmitted signal energy couples back (through space, or through the electronics) into the receive antenna. This is denoted in FIG. 24 as the feedback signal, $f(t)$, which is simply a delayed version (attenuated) of the original signal, $S(t)$. Therefore, the composite signal, $S(t) + f(t)$, is fed into the amplifier, with output $G(S(t) + f(t))$. Assume, for example, that the antennas have 0 dBi gain, then the new feedback signal is $G f(t)$. The
 10 propagation of this signal, back to the input antenna, will incur attenuation, H . Therefore, the amplified, attenuated signal at the input antenna will be $H G f(t)$. If this signal is comparable in power to the original signal $S(t)$, then the amplifier 128 will go unstable, and oscillate (ring). This oscillation will cause severe distortion in the desired signal.

FIG. 25 shows the same circuit as FIG. 24; however, adding an adaptive cancellation circuit 140. The goal of this circuit 140 is to create a inverse $f(t)$ signal $-f(t)$ (a 180 degree shifted $f(t)$ signal), and sum it with the input signal, including the feedback signal, $f(t)$, at a summing junction 145, and thereby remove the feedback signal $f(t)$.

FIG. 26 shows a general block diagram (high level) of one form of the adaptive cancellation circuit 140. In this approach, the input (RF) signal is summed at the junction
 20 145 with a modulated signal constructed via a digitally adaptive process, to destructively interfere with the feedback signal embedded in the input composite signal. After the summation, the composite signal, $S(t) + f(t)$, is digitally sampled and digitally processed via a digital signal processor (DSP) 150, which computes an intermediate signal for a modulator 152. The modulator 152 takes the intermediate signal, and a sample of the amplified (output)
 25 signal, and creates a near copy of the correct inverted $f(t)$ signal $-f(t)$. This process will work with many, if not most, of the digitally adaptive algorithms for feedback control. Additionally, this methodology does not require an injected signal (training or pilot tone, or wideband noise), for the adaptive process.

FIG. 27 shows the circuit 140 in further detail. The DSP 150 is a combination of an
 30 RF downconverter 160 to shift the signal to an intermediate frequency that allows digital sampling, an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter 162 which digitizes the analog signal, and a processor 164 which performs the required operations to compute the intermediate signal. The modulator 152 is a combination of a controllable attenuator 166, and an I/Q modulator

168. Additional details shown in FIG. 27 include respective couplers 172 and 174 which couple the signals from the signal paths to and from the adaptive cancellation circuit 140, a first coupler 172 being interposed between the summation junction 145 and the filter 126 and the second coupler 174 being at the output of the power amplifier 128. In addition to the 5 couplers 172 and 174, respective delay lines 182 and 184 may be employed at either end of the RF path, one just prior to the summing junction 145 and one subsequent to the coupler 174.

FIG. 28 shows a block diagram of a repeater system using adaptive cancellation (AC) circuit 140, details of which are shown in FIGS. 26 and 27. The "direction" of the circuit 140 10 in each RF path has been taken into account. In this system, each (uplink, downlink) path has a separate AC circuit block 140, and the system uses diplexers 130 because it has only one antenna on each side of the repeater.

FIGS. 29 and 30 show the directional characteristics of the AC circuit blocks 140, whether for the downlink or uplink path. The blocks are "mirror images" of one another, 15 differing by the direction of the desired signal, with the arrows 175 denoting the directionality of each circuit 140.

FIG. 31 shows a side-to-side repeater 190 having a body or housing 192 having opposed flat surfaces. To each of these opposed flat surfaces, there is mounted a single patch antenna element 194, 196, respectively comprising the antennas on the mobile-facing side 20 and the base-station-facing side. An equivalent circuit diagram is shown in FIG. 32. It will be understood that the circuit components of FIG. 32, including the adaptive cancellation (AC) circuits, may be carried in the body or housing 192.

Similarly, FIG. 33 shows a side-to-side repeater 190a having a similar body or housing 192a which mounts separate uplink and downlink transmit (Tx) and receive (Rx) 25 patch antenna elements for each of the two antennas. The respective Tx and Rx antennas on one side of the repeater are designated by reference numerals 194a and 194b, while the respective Tx and Rx antenna elements on the other side are designated by reference numerals 196a and 196b. The circuits shown in FIG. 34 may be mounted to (in) the body (housing) 192a.

30 As indicated above, the electronics, including the adaptive cancellation circuits, may be carried on/in the body/housing 192, 192a of the antenna element in the side-to-side repeater structures of FIGS. 31 and 33, permitting a tower-top modular repeater installation, in addition to the other advantages

As indicated above, FIGS. 31 and 32 show the case for a single antenna (element) on each side, including frequency diplexers to separate each path (or frequency band). FIG. 33 and 34 show the approach when using separate Tx and Rx antennas, and therefore separate circuits, for each (uplink, downlink) path.

5 The above-described approach may be used in a number of applications, including: Cellular Coverage (null fill, in-building systems), PCS, MMDS, WLL and LMDS.

FIG. 35 illustrates a typical prior-art repeater implementation 215 residing on a mast or tower 220 and including a base-station-facing antenna 222 for exchanging signals with a base station 224 at a remote location. The base station 224 may include a tower 226, transmit 10 and receive antennas 228 and base station equipment 230. A mobile-facing antenna 232 exchanges signals with the subscriber which may be a mobile subscriber as illustrated by an automobile at reference numeral 234. The antenna 232 may be designed, located and installed so as to provide coverage over a null fill area 236, as will be described below. The antennas 222, 232 are coupled with the repeater electronics 225 which is mounted elsewhere 15 on the mast or tower 220 by runs of coaxial cable 227, 229.

Referring now to FIG. 36, a repeater implementation in accordance with one embodiment of the invention is designated generally by the reference numeral 245. Similar to the arrangement in FIG. 35, the repeater equipment is mounted to a mast or tower 220 and has a base-station-facing antenna 222 and a mobile-facing antenna 232. Similar to the 20 arrangement in FIG. 35, the antenna 222 communicates with antennas 228 at the base station 224, and the antenna 232 communicates with user equipment which may be a mobile unit 234 with coverage being provided in a null fill area 236. Departing from the prior art, the repeater of the invention comprises an integrated repeater system in which the repeater electronics 225 are incorporated into a single unit or module 250 along with the two antennas. 25

Often a major challenge for wireless service providers is getting access to an equipment site situated in an optimum location. As shown in FIG. 37, the direction from the base-station-facing antenna 322 of the repeater to the base station 324, and/or the direction of the mobile-facing antenna 332 to the null site 321 (i.e., the null fill area) is rarely at a right angle to the face of the donor or null antenna. In fact, this angle will vary significantly from 30 site to site. To address this problem, one embodiment of the invention uses an antenna array with a beamformer network that can be programmed, e.g., from a look-up table. This allows the two antennas to be beam-steered toward the location of the base station and null sites.

The antennas and beamformer can be implemented in several ways. The block diagrams in FIGS. 38 and 39 show two possible implementations. FIG. 38 is an implementation that uses a common antenna for transmit and receive on each side of the repeater. FIG. 39 shows separate transmit and receive antennas 322a, 322b and 332a, 332b on each side of the repeater. The implementation of FIG. 38 uses duplex filters or diplexers 360, 362 to separate the downlink path and uplink path signals for processing by the repeater. This approach has the advantage that the total area on the side of the integrated repeater 350 can be utilized to accommodate a larger antenna array. However, this approach requires that the filters 360, 362, provide all of the isolation between the downlink path and uplink path of the repeater. FIG. 39 is an implementation that uses separate transmit (332a, 332b) and receive (322a, 322b) antennas and filters 400, 402, 406a and 406b. This approach also has the advantage of using the isolation of the two antennas to reduce the filtering requirements in the repeater. However, this approach may increase the area required for the antennas on the sides of the repeater.

The remaining repeater circuits may be implemented in a number of ways. The embodiments shown in FIGS. 38 and 39 use a channel-selective approach. In this approach, a Low Noise Amplifier (LNA) 390 amplifies the low-level signal from each of the antennas, and is a very quiet amplifier to ensure that a good signal-to-noise ratio is maintained in the repeater. After the LNA 390, the desired signal moves to a channel module, comprising an uplink channel module 394 in the uplink path and a downlink channel module 396 in the downlink path. In the channel module, the desired signal is downconverted to a lower intermediate frequency and filtered to limit the spectrum amplified by the repeater to a single channel or set of channels. The intermediate frequency is then upconverted back to the original frequency of the desired signal. The output signal of the channel module is then routed to a power amplifier 398 in each path to create a high level transmit signal. In FIG. 39, respective filters 400, 402 are provided between the LNA's and Power Amplifiers and associated beamforming and selection circuits 404, 406 (to be described below) for the donor and null antennas. Interference cancellers 408 are connected between the outputs of the power amplifiers and the inputs of the LNA's.

The invention may use a direct RF, offset RF, DSP, or GPS based repeater instead of the above-described channel-selective approach. Examples of DSP and GPS repeaters are shown respectively in copending U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/460,023, filed December 13, 1999 and Serial No. 09/513,543, filed February 25, 2000, which are

incorporated herein by reference. A direct RF repeater performs all gain and filtering functions at the high frequency of the desired signal. An offset RF or frequency translating repeater is similar to a channel-selective repeater except that the upconversion of the intermediate frequency moves the signal to a new high frequency signal instead of the original frequency of the desired signal. This approach will minimize or eliminate the need for an interference canceller. A DSP repeater will still utilize an LNA and power amplifier, but the processing functions in the channel module are handled by digitizing the desired signal, performing the function digitally and then converting the digital signal back to an analog signal.

As shown in FIGS. 40 and 41, the antennas 322 and 332 can be implemented using antenna arrays 370, 380. Each antenna array uses a row of M horizontally spaced elements to achieve the desired azimuth beamwidth and N vertically spaced rows of elements to achieve the desired elevation beamwidth. This invention may use many different types of antenna elements in the antenna array. Some examples include patch antennas 372 (FIG. 40) and bow-tie dipoles 382 (FIG. 41). FIG. 40 is an example of a patch antenna array 370 with M=4 and N=3. FIG. 41 is an example of a bow-tie dipole array 380 with M=4 and N=2.

The beamforming and selection networks 404, 406 and 404a, 404b, 406a, 406b in FIGS. 38 and 39, combine the antenna elements 372 or 382 in the antenna array 370 or 380 with appropriate phase and amplitude to create the desired antenna pattern. Several methods can be used to implement the beamforming and selection networks. One method of implementing this is to use a M x N Butler matrix to perform the phasing and combining functions. The angle and elevation of each beam is stored in a look-up table that the repeater uses to drive a diode or relay switch matrix to select the desired beam. This look-up table is stored in a memory of the repeater controller 410 in order to map the desired azimuth and program other parameters and matrix settings for use by the Butler matrix.

One example of a Butler matrix for beamsteering is shown in FIG. 45. Here a plurality of antenna elements 800 are arranged in a 3 by 3 array. The antenna elements 800 may be patches 372 such as in FIG. 40, dipoles such as the dipoles 382 shown in FIG. 41 or another form of antenna elements. All the antenna elements 800 in the array are coupled with a two-dimensional Butler matrix 802. The two-dimensional Butler matrix 802 is in turn coupled with an M:1 radio frequency (RF) switch 804. In the illustrated embodiment, M=9, the total number of antennas 800 in the array coupled with the Butler matrix 802. The RF switch 804 is controlled by a controller or control circuit module 806 via a control output 805

which may also control other similar RF switches for the other repeater antenna array via an additional control output 807 as shown in FIG. 45. The controller 806 may be a part of the controller 410 of FIG. 38 or 39.

The controller 806 may be set to sequentially switch to the beams provided by the 5 antenna 800 via the Butler matrix 802 and RF switch 804 to search for an optimal signal, such as the highest net power output. This is indicated in FIG. 45 by an RF connection 808 from the output of the switch 804 to an input of the control circuit 806 for monitoring the RF output. Other parameters might be used to control switching such as the lowest noise or some other measure of signal quality. Thus, in operation, the control circuit 806 switches 10 antenna elements until an "optimum" signal output is located and then remains connected to the antenna element at which the optimal signal is received. RF circuits similar to that shown in FIG. 25 are located between the switch 804 and a similar switch (not shown) which is coupled in the same fashion indicated to a similar Butler matrix to select a beam from a similar antenna array (not shown) at the opposite side of the repeater. The control module 15 806 similarly controls this second RF switch coupled with an antenna array at the other side of the repeater via a control line 807. The second RF switch may be controlled by the control circuit 806 on the same basis, for example, on the basis of signal strength or some other measure of signal quality. The RF circuit includes respective diplexers 809 (where the respective antenna elements 800 perform both transmit and receive functions), power 20 amplifiers 810 and filters 812.

A system of beamforming or beam selection other than a Butler matrix may also be utilized without departing from the invention. For example, the signal processor or controller 410 (e.g., in FIG. 38 or 39), in addition to its other functions, can be programmed and adapted to perform a continuous variable, essentially linear beamforming function by 25 continuous adjustment of the N beams coming in with a variable phase and amplitude weighting being applied, to develop a single beam direction to correspond to the desired beam direction of either of the antennas for communicating with a base station or subscriber equipment. Various phase and amplitude settings can be prestored for a number of beams, for example N beams, each with a given directional characteristic or setting, from which the 30 processor chooses the best match for a given situation.

Another method is to build the phasing and combining networks with variable phase devices in series with each antenna element. A look-up table of phase values for discrete angles and elevations is then used to create the desired beam. In FIG 46, the antenna

elements 800 in an N by N (e.g., 3 by 3) array and each coupled with a respective one of a plurality of phase shifters 820. The phase shifters are in turn coupled via a corporate feed 822 to an RF output A which may couple with the RF circuits as shown in FIG. 45. A controller 824 is provided to control all the phase shifters 820. The same arrangement is utilized for the antenna on the opposite face of the repeater.

The latter arrangements differ from the Butler matrix in that only one beam or directional output is developed or generated for a given requirement or situation or relative location. In contrast, in the Butler matrix, a total of N beams are available at all times with a switching network being utilized to select the one of these N beams best suited for a given 10 situation or placement of the repeater tower relative to the base station and null fill area, respectively.

FIG. 47 illustrates the flat-panel approach to repeater construction using arrays of antenna elements. For relatively low power applications, a first face 822a may mount a plurality antenna elements 800 which may be patches, dipoles or other antenna elements. 15 Similar antenna elements may be mounted in an array on the opposite face 832a. The relatively thin housing 852a between the two faces or surfaces 822a and 832a may house the electronics.

Referring to FIG. 48 in an alternate design, each of a pair of flat panels 850b and 850c mount antenna elements (not shown) only on their outwardly facing surfaces 822b and 832b. 20 The two panels 850b and 850c are pivotally mounted to a pair of brackets 850, 852 or other support structure at pivot points 854 and 856 and aligned pivot points (not shown) at the bottom edges of the respective panels 850b and 850c. A separate electronics housing or enclosure 852b may be coupled with the brackets or other support structure 850 and 852 intermediate the two flat panels 850b and 850c. The beamsteering may be accomplished by 25 tilting (or rotating) the respective panels until the maximum signal strength, or some other measure of signal quality is achieved.

FIGS. 49 and 50 are simplified diagrams illustrating beamsteering via the use of various delay lengths by using striplines of different lengths on different layers of a multi-layer printed circuit board selectable by an RF switch (FIG. 49) or striplines of different 30 lengths printed on the same circuit board and selectable via RF switches (FIG. 50). Thus, in FIG. 49, antenna elements 480, 482 and 484, 486 are each coupled to multiple striplines of different lengths, represented by various solid and broken lines designated generally by the reference numeral 488. All these lines 488 of various lengths are coupled together at radio

frequency (RF) summers 481. That is, all of the lines 488 of a first length are coupled to one summer 483, all of the lines 488 of a second length are coupled to a summer 485, and so forth. A radio frequency (RF) switch 487 operated in response to a control signal on a control line 489 selects from among the lines of different lengths connecting the various 5 antenna elements 480 to the summers 483, 485, etc. The control signal may be produced automatically in response to a measurement of signal strength or some other optimal signal quality, in order to accomplish beamsteering via the selection or adjustment of stripline length.

In the approach shown in FIG. 50, the selection of striplines 490 of varying length is 10 accomplished at the antenna elements 492, 494, 496, etc. by respective radio frequency switches 491, 493 and 495. All these delay lines of varying length feed a common RF output 497. The delay line length for each antenna may be selected either independently or in unison with the selection of delay lines for other antennas, in response to suitable control signals (C) in much the same fashion as in FIG. 49, and/or, as described above, in response to 15 detection of an optimal signal level or some other optimal signal quality measurement.

Typically, a repeater site uses the physical separation of the antennas to achieve enough isolation to allow the repeater to operate with gains of 60 to 95 dB. Because the antennas are located relatively close together in the flat-panel repeater, another approach is needed to achieve isolation. As described above, such an approach can include the use of 20 radio frequency chokes in the enclosure between the antennas to reduce the coupling between the antennas, or the use of an adaptive interference canceller to provide additional gain and phase margin, as described above.

A limiting characteristic for repeaters is that of the feedback loop, or conversely, the isolation between the two opposing antennas (or sensors). That is, the total front to back 25 (F/B) ratio for the system, or isolation, must be higher than the desired gain. Generally speaking, the isolation between donor and null antennas is equal to the total repeater gain plus some margin, typically around 10 to 15 dB. Therefore, the repeater gain will in general be less than the isolation minus the margin. For example, if the isolation between antennas is around 60 dB, then the maximum repeater gain allowed will be about 45 dB. For PCS 30 frequencies, these figures may result in a repeater range of less than 100 feet.

In a scattering environment, which is common in PCS, every 6 dB of additional system gain will double the coverage distance. Thus, obtaining an additional 24 dB of isolation between the two antennas, will allow the range to double 4 times, to 1600 feet. For

conventional repeater systems as in FIG. 35, where the two antennas and repeater electronics are in three separate enclosures, and locations, the donor antenna (to the base station) and null antenna (to the desired coverage area), are separated in space by (usually) more than 10 feet. This distance adds over 50 dB to the isolation between antennas, generating a total isolation 5 value of well over 100 dB. Therefore, with a 15 dB margin, this type of system can utilize a total gain of up to 85 dB or more, which results in fairly large range and coverage.

For the integrated repeater of this invention, where the opposing antennas are in or on the same housing or enclosure, and separated in space by as little as a few inches, isolation is typically limited to a value below 80 dB or so. This therefore allows a total repeater gain of 10 no more than 65 dB, which may limit the system range to a few hundred feet or less.

The adaptive cancellation approach removes a significant portion (between 10 dB and 40 dB) of the feedback signal power, therefore increasing the total system isolation by the same amount (10 to 40 dB). This additional isolation can be used to achieve greater repeater gain, and therefore significantly extend the range of the system. This is especially useful in 15 the integrated repeater.

Isolation between the two sides of the repeater can also be improved by the use of different sized arrays of antenna elements on the mobile and base station sides to reduce the effect of multipath interference and decrease direct coupling between the two antennas. Thus, an $N \times M$ array of dipoles on the base station side of the repeater may be sized to 20 provide high gain and a directive beam to limit reflections from nearby objects such as walls and ceilings. For example, a 2×2 array might be used. The array spacing may be chosen as a half wavelength at the center frequency of the frequency band being amplified and re-transmitted by the repeater, to produce a null in the array factor on the horizons, thus reducing the direct coupling between the antennas on opposite sides of the repeater. For the 25 broader beamwidth desired on the other side of the repeater, to provide a large coverage area, a linear array of N dipoles may be used. This linear array produces a fan beam with increased directivity in the elevation plane, which acts to reduce the multipath interference due to reflections from nearby objects such as walls or ceilings. The dipole arrays are preferably implemented as twin-line-fed dipoles with tuning stubs for impedance matching.

30 A coax-to-twin-line balun may be implemented with a smooth transition from a microstrip line to a twin line on the same substrate as the antenna and corporate feed, resulting in a compact, low-cost antenna. The dipoles are preferably polarized at a 45° slant for optimum reception of signals of unknown polarization, with opposite slants on opposite faces of the

repeater for maximum isolation. As an alternative, antenna elements may be provided on opposite sides of the repeater to produce circularly polarized radiation patterns, preferably of opposed polarities.

The microprocessor or controller (repeater controller) 410 provides the repeater control functions. This controller provides all setup, communications, and monitoring functions for the repeater. These functions include those related to setting the beamforming and selection functions to the desired beam, as mentioned above, and setting the amplifier gain and frequency of operation to the maximum usable gain for stability and the power rating of the repeater.

10 The controller's functions may also include monitoring of power levels at various points in the system, monitoring of the status of the devices in the system, for example for over-power, under-power, oscillation, etc. The controller may also include communication ports for communication with outside devices. For example, a local connection, such as an RS-232 port may be provided to communicate with a laptop computer which may be used in 15 the field to exchange data with the controller, update data or program routines, or the like. A remote communication port or protocol may also be employed to enable communications with a network management system, through a local telephone company or wireless serial communication port, such as a data modem or TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) or SNMP(Simple Network Management Protocol). In this regard 20 the controller 410 may comprise a microprocessor with a UART (Universal Asynchronous Receive Transmit) to enable the desired communications and command structures and protocols.

FIGS. 42 and 43 are software flow charts for the initialization of the repeater, which includes beam selection on the base-station-facing antenna and the mobile-facing antenna and 25 the initial gain settings. The blocks in the flowcharts of FIG. 42 and FIG. 43 are as follows:

<u>Reference No.</u>	<u>Function</u>
500	Power On/Reset
502	Disable Repeater
504	Get Donor Site Coordinates & Elevation
506	Get Null Area Coordinates & Elevation
508	Get Repeater Site Coordinates & Elevation
510	Get Compass Direction of Repeater
512	Calculate Pointing Angle to Donor

<u>Reference No.</u>	<u>Function</u>
514	Get Donor Beamformer Settings From Look-Up Table
516	Set Donor Beamformer
518	Calculate Pointing Angle to Null
520	Get Null Beamformer Settings from Look-Up Table
522	Set Null Beamformer
524	Set Repeater Gain to Minimum
526	Set Repeater Channel Frequency
528	Enable Repeater
530	Measure Forward Power
532	Forward Power Over Limit?
534	Display Warning
536	Disable Repeater
538	Increase Gain 6 dB
540	Measure Forward Power
542	Forward Power Over Limit?
544	Forward Power Increase 6 dB?
546	Decrease Gain 6 dB
548	Decrease Gain 6 dB
550	Go to Main Loop
552	End

FIG. 44 is a software flow chart for a main operational loop of the repeater control program, and includes only the functions related to auto gain control of the repeater. The blocks in the flow chart of FIG. 44 are as follows:

<u>Reference No.</u>	<u>Function</u>
600	Main Loop
602	Wait Time T1
604	Measure Forward Power
606	Forward Power Over Limit?
608	Decrease Gain 2 dB
610	Increase Gain 2 dB
612	Measure Forward Power

<u>Reference No.</u>	30 <u>Function</u>
614	Forward Power Increase 2 dB
616	Decrease Gain 2 dB
618	Decrease Gain 4 dB

The automatic gain control feature may also be used to monitor undesired feedback and adjust the gain of the appropriate signal amplifier(s) to prevent oscillation. An oscillation detector may also be included to monitor the current flow through the amplifier and produce a signal that can be used to shut down the repeater, or the appropriate circuits in the repeater,
5 in the event that oscillation actually occurs.

FIG. 51 shows a solar panel 910 with a battery 911 on a relatively thin, flat antenna 912 of the type described above. The addition of a "solar panel with battery" system allows the repeater to be installed in a location with sunlight, and therefore mitigate the requirements for an external (DC) power source. The system actually operates from the battery unit, which
10 is occasionally (when the sun is up) re-charged from the embedded solar panel unit. This is an excellent application for spot coverage requirements for a repeater, where there is currently not a local power source or wiring. Additionally, it aids the installation of the unit indoors (assuming sufficient lighting, to recharge the batteries, where there is no local power plug). Lastly, it is more aesthetic, than requiring wire runs to the unit. Note that the solar
15 panel can be on the top, sides, and/or the front face (with a hole for the patch antennas). The battery system is inside the unit; adjacent to the RF hardware (amplifiers, etc.).

In order to improve the front-to-back isolation between the two antennas of the repeater, the two antennas can also be physically separated from each other by a distance of at least several feet, as illustrated in FIG. 52. For example, separating the antennas by only
20 10 feet equates to a 40-dB propagation loss in the PCS frequency band. In FIG. 52, two separate antennas 921 and 922 of a repeater are mounted on the walls 923 and 924 at opposite ends of a room or space within a building and are interconnected by a coaxial cable 925 extending along or within the ceiling 926.

In FIG. 53, two separate antennas 931 and 932 are mounted on opposite sides of an
25 exterior wall 933 of a building and are interconnected by a coaxial cable 934 extending through the wall 933. FIG. 53a illustrates an H-shaped repeater housing 935 that eliminates the need for the coaxial cable 934 in FIG. 53, and FIG. 53b illustrates an inverted-U-shaped housing 936 that accomplishes the same result. FIG. 53c illustrates a repeater housing 937 having a central section that not only spaces the two sides of the repeater from each other, but

also is shaped to fit over a pole P to facilitate both the mounting of the repeater and the orientation of the antennas on the opposite faces of the repeater. That is, the repeater 937 can be simply rotated around the pole P to the desired angular position. FIG. 53e illustrates another form of inverted-U-shaped repeater housing 938, and FIGs. 53f and 53g illustrate two modified housing structures 939 and 940 adapted to be mounted on a pole P. The housing 939 comprises two sections joined by a coaxial cable 939a.

FIG. 54 illustrates an embodiment in which a pair of diplexers D1 and D2 and an amplifier A are integrated with each of the two antennas 941 and 942 for simultaneous transmission of bidirectional signals between each antenna and a common interconnecting coaxial cable 943. Alternatively, all the electronics can be integrated with just one of the antennas to further simplify the hardware and reduce the number of diplexers required.

Instead of connecting the physically separated antennas via coaxial cable, the physically separated antennas can be coupled wirelessly, using either RF or infrared wireless coupling. The signals arriving at the two antennas from outside the repeater are converted to a different frequency for the local transmission between the two antennas within the repeater, to avoid interference with signals within the system band and thereby improve the total system gain.

Referring to FIG. 55, within a repeating device 1010, individual low gain amplification devices (e.g., negative resistance amplifiers 1012, 1014) that separate input and output signals by their direction of propagation can be connected in circuit with directional antennas 1016, 1018 to provide low gain, short range repeating devices or "repeating cells" 1010. In FIG. 56, numerous such repeating cells 1010 are arranged in a parallel fashion within a repeater 1020 such that in the direction of propagation, the signals of all the devices add. Thus, the total gain of the repeating device 1020 is the additive gain of all the individual repeating cells 1010. This device includes a pair of repeaters 1020 and 1020b, each constructed of multiple cells 1010 of the type shown in FIG. 55. The two repeaters 1020 and 1020b may be connected in a "daisy chain" configuration, with one repeater 1020 passing a signal to and/or receiving a signal from the other repeater 1020b. In practice, these two repeaters are located considerably farther apart than indicated in the somewhat simplified diagram of FIG. 56.

In each cell 1010, a hybrid coupler 1015 (FIG. 55) functions to separate the incoming signal from the outgoing signal. Filters 1022 and 1024 are also provided between the hybrid coupler 1015 and the antennas 1016 and 1018, respectively. The practical isolation of the

hybrid coupler is 15-20 dB, which limits the maximum gain of the negative resistance amplifier to 6-15 dB. Useful repeater range typically requires 50 to 60 dB total gain. The directive antennas 1016, 1018 can provide 19 dB gain each, and thus each cell can have a gain of as much as 53 dB (19 +19 +15). Accordingly, the construction of a repeating device 5 or repeater using a plurality of such cells in parallel is capable of providing considerable gain.

Moreover, it is possible to construct an individual cell of the generalized configuration of FIG. 55 with adequate repeater gain to meet the typical gain requirements of a useful repeater. The antennas 1016, 1018 can each be a 16 element (4 X 4) flat-panel array. Based on this approach, FIG. 57 shows one embodiment of the invention in which the 10 repeater 1020 is configured in the form of a rectilinear box housing 1030, having opposed square (or rectangular) faces 1032 and shorter connecting sidewalls 1036, 1038. Radiating elements, such as a patch element 1016 for each cell 1010, are arrayed on faces 1032. The specific shape of the housing may be different from that shown.

Referring now to FIG. 58, a repeater diversity system in accordance with a further 15 aspect of the invention is employed in a repeater system 1110 mounted on a tower 1112. At the top end of the tower 1112, a mobile-facing antenna 1114 and a base-station-facing antenna 1116 are mounted facing in generally opposite directions. Appropriate feeds such as coaxial cables or other suitable feedlines 1118 and 1120 respectively run from the antennas 1114 and 1116 to an electronics enclosure 1122 located at a lower part of the tower 1112, in 20 which the repeater-associated electronic circuitry is located, which circuitry will be further described in connection with FIG. 59. The antenna 1114 generally broadcasts and receives signals relative to a remote user location or subscriber equipment. This subscriber equipment may be mobile equipment such as in a cellular or PCS system, or the like. Thus, the signal source received by the antenna 1114 from the remote equipment may be a mobile signal 25 source. The antenna 1116 transmits and receives signals relative to a base station at some remote location. The repeater electronics 1122 boosts the signals as they are passed between the two antennas, to enhance the communications between the remote source and the base station.

As shown in FIG. 59, the antenna 1114 includes a main antenna 1130 and a receive 30 (Rx) diversity antenna 1132. In one embodiment, these two antennas 1130 and 1132 are arranged to have the same phase center but mutually orthogonal polarizations (see FIG. 61). By using this arrangement, the problem of location-induced phase variation is substantially eliminated. This fact can be used to overcome the complications in differential phase

variation of the main and diversity signals of a mobile signal source, when the signal source is moving over time relative to the repeater location.

In the illustrated embodiment, the main mobile-facing antenna 1130 and the base-station-facing antenna 1116 serve to both transmit and receive signals relative to the remote 5 or subscriber equipment and the base station, respectively. Accordingly, each of these antennas is provided with a frequency diplexer 1140, 1142 to accommodate the use of different frequency bands in the uplink and downlink channels.

Referring first to the uplink channel 1150, it will be seen that the receive signals from the main and Rx diversity antennas 1130, 1132 are fed through respective low noise amplifier 10 (LNA)/attenuator circuits 1152, 1154 and combined at a combining network 1156. In one embodiment the combining network combines these signals with a fixed phase adjustment. The incoming signal from the Rx diversity antenna 1132 is initially processed by a suitable filter 1158. The combined signal from the combining network 1156 is further processed by an uplink channel module 1160, amplified by a power amplifier 1162, and fed to the donor 15 antenna 1116 via its associated diplexer 1142. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the signals from the main and Rx diversity antennas 1130, 1132 are combined at the combining network 1156 with equal gain from the low noise amplifiers 1152, 1154. In the illustrated embodiment, the signals from the antennas 1130 and 1132 are aligned in phase by the combining network 1156 and uplink channel module 1160, in addition to being 20 combined with equal gain settings on each path.

Completing the electronics 1122, a downlink channel module 1170 receives signals transmitted from the base station via the antenna 1116 and its associated frequency diplexer 1142, which signals are first amplified by a low noise amplifier (LNA)/attenuator 1172. The output of the down link channel module 1170 is fed through a power amplifier 1174 to the 25 diplexer 1140 for transmission by the main antenna 1130.

Typically, each channel module includes an upconverter, a filter, and a downconverter. Some gain may also be provided. Suitable channel modules are made by Andrew Corporation, the assignee.

In the system of the invention as described above, the two antennas 1130 and 1132 30 provide two separate versions of the receive signals from the remote or subscriber equipment with statistically independent multipath characteristics, since the vertical and horizontal field components in a communications link are highly uncorrelated. By using receive antennas 1130, 1132 that have the same phase center and mutually orthogonal polarizations,

differential phase variations induced by the changing location of a mobile remote source are substantially eliminated. This overcomes the usual challenge of equal gain combining which requires that the two diversity paths be aligned in phase, since phase alignment would normally be made difficult by the changing location of the mobile signal source.

5 Advantageously, the invention makes possible the implementation of receive diversity in a repeater being used in a wireless communication system. The implementation of receive diversity in a repeater is not limited to a single type of system (e.g., CDMA) but could be implemented for any digital- or analog-based wireless communications system. The invention provides, on average, a 2.5 to 3dB increase in the average carrier-to-noise ratio of the

10 received signal.

Rather than a single main mobile-facing antenna and a signal base-station-facing antenna as described above, with frequency diplexers, the repeater may employ separate transmit and receive antennas on both sides, utilizing separate signal paths in amplification therebetween. Such an arrangement is shown in FIG. 60. In this case, the signal from the
15 main receive antenna 1130a combined with the signal from the receive diversity antenna 1132 at the combiner 1156, after bandpass filtering at filters 1140a, 1158 and equal gain amplification at LNA's 1152, 1154.

In the case of separate transmit and receive base-station-facing antennas, an LNA
1172 receives signals from the antenna 1116b which it transmits through a down link channel
20 module 1170, power amplifier 1174 and bandpass filter 1140b to the antenna 1130b.
Similarly, the main mobile-facing receive antenna 1130a delivers received signals to an LNA
1152 (after bandpass filter 1140a), which, upon being combined with signals from the Rx
diversity antenna 1132 at a combining network 1156 and processed at an uplink module
1160, are delivered via a power amplifier 1162 and transmit bandpass filter 1142a to a
25 transmit antenna 1116a for transmission to the base station.

In one specific example of a CDMA repeater system, the uplink module 1160
employs a channelizer having a gain of about 24 dB or greater for an uplink path channel in a
frequency range from 1850 to 1910 MHz. Similarly, the downlink module 1170 utilizes a
channelizer having a gain of at least 24 dB for a downlink path channel in a frequency range
30 of 1930 to 1990 MHz. In this embodiment, the gain of the low noise amplifiers 1152 and
1154 is 33 dB or greater, and the gain of the power amplifiers 1162 and 1174 is 43 dB or
greater.

FIG. 62 is a block diagram showing the use of a typical RF Butler matrix 1220. These devices are used in analog communication to generate multiple antenna beams, from a composite antenna system having a plurality of antenna elements 1222. Butler matrices can be purchased complete, or generated from a composite circuit of 90 degree hybrids and RF summer circuits. In FIG. 62, a total of M antennas, each with similar characteristics, are used as the input to the Butler matrix. The Butler matrix device then generates K unique RF (analog) outputs 1224, each for a respective beam direction.

Equation (1) below is a general empirical equation (model) for an M-point Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT). This type of transform is normally used in digital technologies to derive the frequency response, X(k), for a series of time domain inputs, x[i]. For example, a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is simple a radix-2 DFT. Thus, the FFT (or DFT) transforms the time domain response into a frequency domain response.

$$15 \quad (1) \quad X(k) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M x[i] e^{-j(2\pi/M)k(i-1)}$$

$j = \sqrt{-1}$

Similarly, the Butler matrix acts as a transform from the spatial response, x[i], to the 20 sectored (or beam) space response, X(k).

FIG. 63 shows an example of a beam pattern for one of the spatial elements (or antennas) 1222 from FIG. 62. Each antenna has a 120 degree sector beamwidth, or Half Power Beam Width (HPBW). The base-station-facing antenna preferably has a narrower half power beamwidth than the mobile-facing antenna. For example, the beamwidth of the base-25 station-facing antenna is typically about 30 degrees, plus or minus 5 degrees, while the beamwidth of the mobile-facing antenna is about 60 degrees, plus or minus 10 degrees.

FIG. 64 shows four (4) similar antennas 1222 feeding a Butler matrix 1220 in a similar configuration to FIG. 63. Each input antenna has a similar 120 degree HPBW, as shown in FIG. 63. For this case, M = 4 in equation (1) above. The Butler matrix is therefore 30 a 4-port device, with 4 input ports and 4 output ports. The output ports 1224 in FIG. 64 are labeled with a numerical designation for the RF output for each beam, corresponding to the numerical designation of the antenna elements 1222 at the input ports.

FIG. 65 shows the azimuth beamwidth response for the Butler matrix in FIG. 64. Each beam has a beamwidth equivalent to roughly 120 degrees divided by four (or M), which is roughly 30 degrees. Additionally, the direction for each of the 4 output beams is uniformly spaced by about 30 degrees. Therefore, the Butler matrix transforms the response of 4 wide angle antennas, all pointing in the same direction (thus all "seeing" exactly the same view), into 4 narrower beams, which collectively give substantially the original view.

The Butler matrix can also operate in "reverse," assuming that the Butler matrix components (and RF switch, discussed below) can handle the RF power. That is, so far, the system has been shown operating in the receive mode, changing spatial responses to beam responses. However, the system also can operate in reverse or transmit mode, changing beam responses to (wider angle) spatial responses. To operate in the transmit mode, the system would need to be capable of handling RF transmit power, and not destroy or "burn up" the RF components.

FIG. 66 shows a simplified view of a PCB (printed circuit board)-mounted system 1300 or "planar switched beam antenna." Here, M antenna elements 1322 (shown here as square patches, or microstrip antennas) mounted on one surface of a PCB 1325 are used for the input response. It is assumed that all M antenna elements 1322 have a similar azimuth response. Each antenna response, tapped via a coaxial probe, aperture coupling, or other antenna feed mechanism 1323, is directed to an M-port Butler matrix 1320, shown as block 20 "B" also mounted on the PCB 1325. The M-RF beam outputs 1324 from the Butler matrix are fed to an M:1 RF switch 1326 (shown as block "S") also mounted on the PCB 1325. The Butler matrix 1320 and RF switch 1326 could be mounted on a separate PCB if desired and in a common housing with the antennas 1322 and PCB 1325. It is assumed that the final output RF signal, from a given antenna element 1322, is the stationary response of the 25 system.

That is, the RF switch 1326 would be externally controlled, and sequentially switch through each of the beams. Some external system would monitor or qualify each output to determine the optimal or desired one, at which point the RF switch would be controlled to select that respective antenna element 1322. An RF transceiver or modem 1328 toggles the 30 RF switch 1326, to each beam, measures the net power output (or other measurement, such as best C/I, or lowest noise, etc.) of each, then selects the beam with the best power (or other measurement, such as best C/I, or lowest noise, etc.).

This system, if used in both the transmit and receive modes, assumes that the patch antenna elements 1322, Butler matrix circuits 1320, and RF switch 1326, all have bandwidth covering the entire transmit and receive signal bandwidths. Thus, the system can operate in both directions; converting wide spatial responses into a single selected beam (for receive), 5 and transmitting a signal back towards the desired direction (transmit mode), assuming sufficient bandwidth and transmit power handling capacity, as noted above.

The array of antennas 1322 could be formed in the vertical plane, to generate elevation beams, as an alternative to the horizontal array of FIG. 66, as discussed below with reference to FIG. 77.

10 FIG. 67 shows a simplified top view of the layered structure of one of the patch elements of FIG. 66, showing the patch structure 1322, a ground plane 1342 (above the surface of the PCB 1325) with an aperture coupled iris 1344, and a microstrip transmission line 1323 on the PCB 1325, carrying the signal.

15 FIG. 68 shows a simplified circuit diagram for the RF switch 1326. M RF transmission lines 1324 are each connected in parallel, via PIN diodes (or other transistor/solid state switching devices, for RF operational frequencies) 1350, to a single point. Each PIN diode 1350 is controlled via a control (C) or bias line 1352; acting as an electronic switching circuit. While only two control lines 1352 are shown, there are M 20 control lines (C) in total, one for each PIN diode 1350. The M control lines 1352 can be operated from a single control line (not shown in FIG. 68) by use of a microcontroller (not shown in FIG. 68) or a TTL (binary) logic device (not shown).

25 FIG. 69 shows a block diagram of a system having components as described above with reference to FIG. 66. The control input 1352 to the M:1 RF switch 1326 can come from an RF to IF transceiver, or from a modem, determined by the beam selection criteria used. A common housing for the antennas 1322, Butler matrix 1320 and RF switch 1326, which may be mounted to one or more PCBs (see FIG. 66) is indicated by reference numeral 1355.

30 FIG. 70 shows a block diagram similar to FIG. 69, but with an RF to IF transceiver (or transverter, as called in MMDS) 1360 added (e.g., mounted on the same PC board 1325). The RF circuitry block could include the Butler matrix, the RF switch, and various transceiver components, all on the same PC board as the antenna, or on one or more separate boards, if desired, and in the same housing 1355.

FIG. 71 shows a similar block diagram to FIG. 70, but with the modem 1362 added to the system. The modem 1362 would control the M:1 RF switch 1326, since it would likely

have the most flexible capabilities to analyze the various antenna inputs (beams), and determine the optimal beam. All these components may be on one or more PCBs in a common housing 1355. The output from the modem could connect to a PC or LAN (not shown) via USB cable, ethernet, or LAN cable 1364.

5 FIG. 72 shows a simplified perspective view of a physical embodiment of a planar system (unit) 1300a, of FIG. 71, with various elements (Butler matrix "B", RF switch "S", Transceiver "T", and Modem "M") all within the same housing (e.g., a relatively thin rectilinear structure) or on the same PC board 1325.

In the case where it is desirable to separate the transmit and receive systems, or if the
10 transmit and receive bands are too far separated, in frequency, to occupy the same antenna elements (or Butler matrix components, or RF switch components), then they can be broken into two completely separate systems. Such a system 1300b is shown in FIG. 73, where a set of transmit mode patches 1322T connects to its own Butler matrix 1320T and RF switch 1326T, and similarly, for the receive mode, a set of equivalent antenna elements 1322R (in
15 this case, shown as patches) tuned to the receive band, a Butler matrix 1320R and RF switch 1326R. The system input/output is two RF ports 1370T and 1370R. The whole system is contained on a single PC board 1325 and/or within a single housing (i.e., could be on more than one PC board in the housing).

FIG. 74 shows a block diagram for the system in FIG. 73. There are M receive band
20 antenna elements 1322R, and N transmit band antenna elements 1322T. Generally speaking, M can, but does not have to equal N. Additionally, each system has a separate control input 1352R, 1352T for the respective RF switch. Indeed, this allows selection of different beams for the transmit and receive bands. This may be the case if a desired signal is to be received from a given direction, but the transmitted signal might be sent out in another direction.

25 FIG. 75 shows the system of FIG. 74 with the addition of an RF to IF downconverter (or receiver) 1372 for the receive mode, and an IF to RF upconverter (or transmitter/exciter) 1374 for the transmit mode. The system can connect to an external modem (not shown) via coaxial cable(s) or twisted pair transmission line 1376. The system shown here uses a single cable; which assumes that the transmit and receive band signals are IF multiplexed into a signal
30 cable, from the transceivers.

FIG. 76 shows the system of FIG. 75, and further including an embedded modem 1362. The modem 1362 can be, but does not have to be, included on the same PCB as either or both the antenna system, and/or transceivers. However, it is assumed that the systems

shown in each of FIGs. 74-76 are contained within respective housings 1355, i.e., each of these drawings shows a system which is contained in its own housing 1355.

FIG. 77 shows a system 1300c similar to that of FIG. 66, but using M elevation arrays 1390 of antenna elements 1420 in place of an array of M individual elements. Each column 5 1390-1, 1390-2, etc. of antenna elements, which form elevation beams, can be summed, using a parallel or corporate feed, and input to the Butler matrix 1420. This can similarly be done for the case of summed azimuth elements, i.e., horizontal arrays (not shown), with switched beams in the elevation plane.

The systems described thus far may utilize PC board technology (planar and thin), 10 with patch or microstrip antenna elements. By design, a patch element has a real ground plane, and therefore each patch element only "sees" a 180 degree (half hemisphere) view. Thus, the systems shown so far, are generally "one-sided." An option to obtain full 360 degree coverage is to employ two such systems, back to back, to generate an effective omnidirectional system 1300d, as shown in FIG. 78. These can be deployed within the same 15 housing (structure). Each system generates a beam input/output; one for the "front" 0 to 180 degree view, and the other for the "back" 180 to 360 degree (azimuth) view. Thus, the system breaks up the 360 view angle into 2M beams, each with relative beamwidth about 360/2M degrees. Additionally, the two input/output beam ports can be connected to a 2:1 RF switch (with control), not shown, to obtain selection of the final (stationary) beam. However, 20 with this approach, the beams in the endfire direction (towards the edges of the PCB) are highly attenuated (gain), due to the limited view angle for a patch antenna (element).

An alternative method to obtain a full 360 degree view angle is to use dipole (etched) 25 antenna elements 1522, on a PCB 1525, as shown in FIG. 79. Each dipole (shown as "bow-tie" dipole elements, which have broadband characteristics) has a very symmetric azimuth pattern for a full 360 degree coverage. This system does not employ a backplane or ground, as do the patches. Similar to the previous designs, this system uses a Butler matrix 1520 and RF switch 1526, to generate a single RF input/output port 1570. However, along the symmetry plane of the printed circuit board (PCB) 1525, the dipoles 1522 have mirror azimuth beams, as shown in FIG. 80. Thus, selection of Beam #1 towards the back, also 30 selects Beam #1 towards the front. In the example shown in FIG. 80, there are only 4 states to choose from, and switch 1526 selects two beams, in summation; one from each side of the symmetry plane.

FIG. 81 shows a typical installation, either in a home or office, with an antenna system 1300 in accordance with any of the embodiments described above located on a wall, with a cable run 1302 down the wall, to a PC or server 1304.

FIGs. 82 and 83 show an antenna unit 1400, alone, and installed to a laptop computer 1402. Wireless internet systems require large bandwidths and data rates (over 50 kbps, up to 2000 kbps), much higher than conventional wireless voice systems (9.8 kbs). To achieve these rates requires much higher system gain levels. These gains can only be obtained by either reducing the distance from the base station (or picocell) to the remote (CPE unit, terminal unit) or by increasing the directive gains of the base station antenna and/or terminal equipment antenna. Antenna gain is a function of the physical size of the antenna.

Aesthetics and zoning issues limits increasing the size of the base station antenna (to achieve additional directive gain). Thus, one alternative is to increase the gain of the terminal equipment antenna, which means increasing its physical size. Currently wireless voice systems (on a handset) use 2" stub (monopole) omni-directional antennas, with at best 0 dBi of gain. To satisfy the higher data rates, requires additional gain of at least 10 dB (20 dB desired).

The RF Switched Beam Planar Antenna described above is a good approach for this requirement, and is cost effective. This application would embed the RF electronics within the antenna 1400, and mount the system to the laptop unit. The switched beams would continually search for the best multipath signal, and lock on; transporting this signal to the modem. The envelop of the beams is within an ellipse; with the major axis of the ellipse in the directions perpendicular to the faces of the antenna system. Thus, the side (endfire) angles of the system would have much lower (reduced) gain. A series of LEDS 1404 or other suitable display elements could be used (shown at the top), which could aid the user to help orient the unit, to more optimally orient the antenna faces towards directions of greater signal power.

The flat panel antenna 1400 may further have a USB or other suitable connection 1406 to interface with the laptop computer 1402. The cable or other connector 1406 may also include a power cable to use battery or other power from the laptop computer 1402, or alternatively, on-board battery power may be included within the flat panel antenna unit 1400. If desired, the battery used may be a solar powered type of battery.

In the illustrated embodiment, the flat panel antenna 1400 has a generally L-shaped cross-sectional profile such that the LEDs 1404 or other display elements are readily visible

over the top of the laptop computer 1402 when the antenna 1400 is installed thereupon, as indicated in FIG. 83. However, other shapes of the panel 1400 and other configurations and locations of LEDs or other display elements may be utilized without departing from the invention.

5 The flat panel antenna unit 1400 may be coupled with the case or housing of the laptop computer 1402 by using one or more velcro pads 1408, or "sticky" tape, or the like. Other arrangements of snap-on, snap-off fasteners or other mounting parts or mounting hardware may be utilized without departing from the invention.

10 The LEDs or other display elements 1404, as well as suitable circuitry for determining signal strength, or some other desirable measure of signal quality may be incorporated in the flat panel antenna 1400, or indeed in any antenna configured in accordance with the invention.

15 Certain of the flat antennas described above may have azimuth and/or elevation beamwidths of 90° or less, which can restrict or reduce coverage in the end-fire directions.

20 To achieve wider angle coverage, multiple antennas may be used on one or both sides of the flat-panel repeater. One such embodiment is illustrated in FIG. 84, where a repeater 1500 has a single base-station-facing antenna 1501, and three mobile-facing antennas 1502, 1503 and 1504. The plane of the middle antenna 1503 is parallel to that of the base-station-facing antenna 1501, but the planes of the other two antennas 1502 and 1504 intersect the planes of 25 antennas 1501 and 1503 at angles of about 45° so as to produce beams that overlap the beam of the middle antenna 1503, as illustrated by the broken lines in FIG. 84. The azimuth beamwidth of the middle antenna 1503 is typically only about 80°, but the addition of the two angled antennas 1502 and 1504 provides wide angle coverage on the mobile side of the repeater. FIG. 85 illustrates how an RF splitter 1505 can be used to connect all three mobile-facing antennas 1502-1504 to the same diplexer 1506. It will be understood that the same arrangement illustrated in FIGs. 84 and 85 can also be used to provide wide-angle elevation coverage by simply rotating the structure 90° so that FIG. 84 becomes a side elevation rather than a top plan view.

30 FIG. 86 illustrates an alternative technique for achieving wide-angle azimuth coverage by using a dipole 1510 as the mobile-facing antenna, with the adjacent surface 1511 of the flat-panel repeater 1512 serving as a flat reflector. The combination of the dipole 1510 and the reflector 1511 produces a wide-angle azimuth beamwidth. FIG. 87 illustrates a

modified repeater 1513 which forms a shaped (concave) reflector 1514 on the mobile-facing side to further increase the azimuth beamwidth.

The antennas on opposite sides of the flat-panel repeater may also be mounted in planes that are not parallel to each other to reach the desired coverage areas. For example, 5 FIG. 88 illustrates a repeater 1520 having a mobile-facing antenna 1521 lying in a plane that intersects the plane of the base-station-facing antenna 1522 at an angle θ to service a mobile coverage area located in the direction of the beam axis 1523 of the antenna 1521.

The repeater may also be designed to re-transmit signals in a direction orthogonal to the direction in which the signals are received by the repeater. The orthogonal relationship of 10 the two paths may be in azimuth, in elevation, or a combination of the two. For example, FIG. 89 illustrates a repeater 1530 designed to receive horizontally propagating signals and re-transmit them vertically downward. Such a repeater is useful, for example, when the repeater must be located above the intended coverage area, or where the signal-to-noise ration is best at a location higher than the intended coverage area. In the illustrative embodiment of 15 FIG. 89, base station signals propagated along a horizontal path are received by a vertically polarized monopole (or dipole) 1531 extending upwardly from one side (top) of the flat-panel repeater 1530, and then re-transmitted vertically downward by a flat, horizontally polarized antenna 1532 on the opposite side (bottom) of the repeater. A ground plane 1533 for the antenna 1532 is provided on the lower surface of the repeater body which contains the 20 electronics. The polarization difference between the two antennas 1531 and 1532 improves the isolation between the two antennas.

Referring next to FIG. 90, there is shown an antenna system for re-transmitting a GPS signal 1409 inside a structure 5. The antenna system includes a link antenna 1412 for receiving the GPS signal 1409 from a GPS transmitting antenna 1411, a GPS repeater 1414 25 for amplifying the received GPS signal 1410 to produce a second GPS signal 1415 and a broadcast antenna 1416 for re-transmitting the second GPS signal 1415 inside the structure 5. This embodiment works best where the structure 5 has the dimensions of a two-story building.

The GPS repeater 1414 feeds the received GPS signal 1410 into the structure 5. In 30 one embodiment, the external link antenna 1412 captures the GPS signal 1409 and feeds it to the GPS repeater 1414. The GPS repeater 1414 boosts the received GPS signal 1410 and drives an internal broadcast antenna 1416 that radiates the second GPS signal 1415 inside the structure 5.

The present invention overcomes the inability of GPS receivers to work inside a structure, which is a major shortcoming of the Global Positioning System. As the GPS is used in more commercial applications, the ability to overcome this shortcoming becomes very important. Examples of commercial uses of the GPS include: Enhanced 911 service; 5 wireless phone services that provide an Internet connection; wireless services that provide the location of, *e.g.*, hotels, restaurants, and businesses; services that provide assistance to the elderly and handicapped; and locator services (provide by, *e.g.*, rental car companies) that provide location information that can be received inside structures such as parking garages, buildings and tunnels.

10 In one embodiment, the GPS repeater 1414 includes the components shown in FIG. 92. Those components include a band pass filter 1418, a low noise amplifier 1420, a gain block 1422, a power amp 1424 and second band pass filter 1426. The band pass filters 1418 and 1426 are selected so as to reduce the out-of-band signals. For a GPS repeater system, the pass band will usually be around 1575.42 MHz (+/- 500 kHz). In one embodiment, the gain 15 block 1422 includes a radio frequency (RF) amplifier 1428, a band pass filter 1430 and a second RF amplifier 1432, as shown in FIG. 93.

In another embodiment shown in FIG. 94, the gain block 1422 includes a mixer 1434 for down converting the GPS signal 1410 to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal 1436. The GPS signal 1410 is combined by a mixer 1434 with a local oscillator (LO) signal 1440 to 20 produce the IF signal 1436. In one embodiment, the IF is between about 140 MHz to 160 MHz, depending on the application. Thus, where the LO signal 1440 is 1640 MHz and the GPS signal 1410 is 1.5 GHz, then the IF signal would be 140 MHz. The IF signal 1436 is amplified by amplifiers 1442 and filtered by a band pass filter 1444. The band pass filter 1444 significantly reduces the complex components or images of the GPS signal 1410 and 25 the LO signal 1440. A second mixer 1446 converts the IF signal 1436 to produce the RF signal 1438. The IF signal 1436 is combined by the second mixer 1446 with the LO signal 1440 to produce the RF signal 1438. In one embodiment, the IF is between about 140 MHz to 160 MHz, depending on the application. Thus, where the LO signal 1440 is 1640 MHz and the IF signal is 140 MHz, then the RF signal 1438 is 1.5 GHz. Therefore, in this 30 embodiment, the RF signal 1438 is the second GPS signal 1415.

In one embodiment, the RF signal 1438 is an unlicensed frequency signal. The unlicensed frequency signal can be in any frequency range not licensed by the Federal

Communications Commission (FCC). Some examples of unlicensed frequency bands include: 902-928 MHz and 2.4 GHz.

Referring to FIG. 91, there is shown an antenna system 1540 for re-transmitting a received GPS signal 1541 inside a structure 1542. The antenna system 1540 includes a link 5 antenna 1543 for receiving the GPS signal 1541, a primary GPS repeater 1545 for amplifying the GPS signal 1541 to produce an RF signal 1538, a first broadcast antenna 1547 to broadcast the RF signal 1538 to one or more secondary repeaters 1650 located to cover the intended coverage area inside the structure 1542. The RF signal 1538 is broadcast to the secondary repeater(s) 1650 at either the original GPS frequency or another available 10 frequency. In one embodiment, the RF signal 1538 is in one of the unlicensed frequency bands such as the Instrumentation, Scientific and Medical (ISM) frequency band of 902 MHz -928 MHz. Each secondary repeater 1650 receives the RF signal 1538 via a link antenna 1544, amplifies the RF signal 1538 to produce a second GPS signal 1546 and re-transmits the second GPS signal 1546 via a second broadcast antenna 1548 inside the structure 1542. The 15 secondary repeater(s) 1650 may be placed inside the structure 1542 or even placed external to the structure 1542 such that the RF signal 1538 can be re-transmitted into the structure through the windows or walls of the structure. This embodiment works best where the structure 1542 has the dimensions of a multi-story building.

In one embodiment, the primary repeater 1545 includes the components shown in 20 FIG. 95. Those components include a band pass filter 1549, a low noise amplifier 1550, a gain block 1551, a power amp 1552 and second band pass filter 1553. In one embodiment, the gain block 1551 includes, as shown in FIG. 96, a mixer 1555 for down converting the GPS signal 1541 to an IF signal 1557. The GPS signal 1541 is combined by a mixer 1555 with a local oscillator (LO) signal 1554 to produce the IF signal 1557. In one embodiment, 25 the IF is between about 140 MHz to 160 MHz, depending on the application. Thus, where the LO signal 1540 is 1640 MHz and the GPS signal 1541 is 1.5 GHz, then the IF signal would be 140 MHz. The IF signal 1557 is amplified by amplifiers 1556 and filtered by a band pass filter 1562. The band pass filter 1562 significantly reduces the complex 30 components or images of the GPS signal 1541 and the LO signal 1554. A second mixer 1558 up converts the IF signal 1554 to produce the RF signal 1538. The IF signal 1554 is combined by the second mixer 1558 with a second LO signal 1564 to produce the RF signal 1538. In one embodiment, the IF is between about 140 MHz to 160 MHz, depending on the

application. Thus, where the second LO signal 164 is 762 MHz and the IF signal is 140 MHz, then the RF signal 1538 is 902 MHz.

In one embodiment, the secondary repeater 1650 includes the components shown in FIG. 97. Those components include a band pass filter 1618, a low noise amplifier 1620, a 5 gain block 1622, a power amp 1624 and second band pass filter 1626. In one embodiment, the gain block 1622 includes, as shown in FIG. 98, a mixer 1670 for down converting the RF signal 1538 to an IF signal 1672. The RF signal 1538 is combined by a mixer 1670 with a local oscillator (LO) signal 1678 to produce the IF signal 1672. In one embodiment, the IF is between about 140 MHz to 160 MHz, depending on the application. Thus, where the LO 10 signal 1540 is 742 MHz and the RF signal 1538 is 902 MHz, then the IF signal would be 160 MHz. The IF signal 1672 is amplified by amplifiers 1674 and filtered by a band pass filter 1676. The band pass filter 1676 significantly reduces the complex components or images of the RF signal 1538 and the first LO signal 1678. A second mixer 1680 converts the IF signal 1672 to produce the second GPS signal 1615. The IF signal 1672 is combined by the second 15 mixer 1680 with a second LO signal 1682 to produce the second GPS signal 1615. In one embodiment, the IF is between about 140 MHz to 160 MHz, depending on the application. Thus, where the second LO signal 1682 is 1340 MHz and the IF signal is 160 MHz, then the second GPS signal 1615 is 1.5 GHz.

Thus, the GPS repeater system of the present invention fills the GPS null or "blank" 20 areas within structures. In this way, the GPS can be used to locate individuals inside buildings, tunnels, garages, *etc.*

In another embodiment, the repeater system of the present invention is used in satellite transmission applications such as digital radio. Like GPS applications, digital radio signals transmitted by satellites can be obstructed from receiving antennas by structures such 25 as buildings, car garages, tunnels, *etc.* Therefore, the claimed repeater is capable of re-transmitting a satellite signal inside a structure such that an uninterrupted satellite signal can be transmitted to a receiver.

CLAIMS

1. A flat panel signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising in a unitary structure oppositely facing antennas, said repeater having height and width dimensions which are a multiple of its thickness dimension.
2. The apparatus defined by claim 1 wherein said thickness dimension is no greater than about six inches, and the greater of said height and width dimensions is no greater than about two feet.
3. The apparatus defined by claim 1 wherein said thickness dimension is no greater than about three inches, and the greater of said height and width dimensions is no greater than about 1.5 feet.
4. The apparatus defined by claim 1 wherein said thickness dimension is no greater than about two inches, and the greater of said height and width dimensions is no greater than about one foot.
- 15 5. A signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, in combination with a mounting bracket adapted to permit rotation of said repeater to facilitate alignment of the repeater with a broadcast antenna whose signal is to be amplified and rebroadcast.
6. A flat panel signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising a frame supporting a closely spaced stacked array of planar components, including substantially planar antennas.
- 20 7. The apparatus defined by claim 6 wherein said planar components include a PC board supporting repeater electronics.
8. A signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising a unitary structure having oppositely facing antennas, said antennas each comprising radiating elements printed on a planar substrate supported adjacent a ground plane.
- 25 9. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein said elements are configured as microstrip patches.
- 30 10. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein said elements are configured as dipoles.

11. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein at least one of said radiating elements on said donor antenna radiates with a first polarization, and wherein at least one element on said null antenna radiates with a second polarization orthogonal to said first polarization.

5 12. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein said radiating elements on said antennas each produce a slant 45 degree polarized radiation pattern, said donor and null antenna patterns being mutually orthogonal.

13. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein said donor antenna has a first plurality of radiating elements and said null antenna has a second plurality of radiating 10 elements which is less than said first plurality.

14. The apparatus defined by claim 13 wherein one of said antennas is a mobile-facing antenna comprising multiple antenna elements configured in an $N \times M$ array, and another of said antennas is a base-station-facing antenna comprising multiple antenna elements configured in an N geometry, and wherein N and M are each greater than one.

15 15. The apparatus defined by claim 14 wherein N and M are each 2.

16. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein at least one of said planar substrates is supported in a conforming recess in the associated ground plane.

17. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein said ground planes are supported in spaced relationship by a frame.

20 18. The apparatus defined by claim 17 wherein said repeater includes an electronics assembly captured by said frame between said ground planes.

19. The apparatus defined by claim 17 wherein said frame includes an RF choke structure.

25 20. The apparatus defined by claim 19 wherein said choke structure comprises an array of axially directed fins.

21. The apparatus defined by claim 20 wherein said fins have height and spacing dimensions related to one fourth wavelength of the center frequency of the band of frequencies being amplified and rebroadcast by said repeater.

22. The apparatus defined by claim 20 wherein said choke structure comprises an 30 array of outwardly directed fins.

23. The apparatus defined by claim 22 wherein said fins have height and spacing dimensions related to one fourth wavelength of the center frequency of the band of frequencies being amplified and rebroadcast by said repeater.

24. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein said radiating elements on at least one of said antennas have a configuration effective to produce a null in the array factor on the horizons to reduce the direct coupling between said antennas.

25. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein said radiating elements on said 5 antennas are each configured and driven to produce a circularly polarized radiation pattern, said patterns produced by the two antennas being of opposed polarity.

26. The apparatus defined by claim 8 wherein said antenna elements are spaced by one half wavelength of the center frequency of the frequency band being amplified and rebroadcast by the repeater.

10 27. A signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising a unitary structure having oppositely facing antennas, said repeater including a surrounding frame having an RF choke structure.

28. The apparatus defined by claim 27 wherein said choke structure comprises an array of axially directed fins.

15 29. The apparatus defined by claim 28 wherein said fins have height and spacing dimensions related to one fourth wavelength of the center frequency of the band of frequencies being amplified and rebroadcast by said repeater.

30. The apparatus defined by claim 27 wherein said choke structure comprises an array of outwardly directed fins.

20 31. The apparatus defined by claim 30 wherein said fins have height and spacing dimensions related to one fourth wavelength of the center frequency of the band of frequencies being amplified and rebroadcast by said repeater.

32. The apparatus defined by claim 27 wherein said frame supports RF energy absorbing material.

25 33. A signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising in a unitary structure having oppositely facing antennas and feedback suppression means to improve side-to-side isolation and gain performance.

34. The apparatus defined by claim 33 wherein said repeater is configured as a flat panel, with height and width dimensions each being a multiple of its thickness dimension.

30 35. The apparatus defined by claim 34 wherein said donor and null antennas each comprise radiating antenna elements located centrally of an associated ground plane of sufficient area to contribute significant side-to-side isolation and gain performance.

36. The apparatus defined by claim 34 wherein said suppression means includes an electronic isolation enhancement system.

37. The apparatus defined by claim 36 wherein said system is a digital adaptive cancellation system.

5 38. The apparatus defined by claim 34 wherein said antennas are each configured to be directive.

39. The apparatus defined by claim 34 combined with a mounting bracket, the bracket supporting said repeater for rotation to facilitate pointing of said repeater toward a broadcast source of RF signals to be amplified and re-broadcast to improve the gain
10 performance of said repeater.

40. The apparatus defined by claim 34 wherein said repeater includes an automatic gain control circuit.

41. The apparatus defined by claim 33 wherein said donor and null antennas each comprise radiating antenna elements located centrally of an associated ground plane of
15 sufficient area to contribute significant feedback suppression.

42. The apparatus defined by claim 33 wherein said feedback suppression means includes an RF choke structure in a feedback path between said antennas.

43. The apparatus defined by claim 42 wherein said RF choke structure comprises a series of axially spaced outwardly extending fins surrounding the periphery of said repeater.

20 44. The apparatus defined by claim 42 wherein said RF choke structure comprises a series of axially directed concentric fins around the face of at least one of said antennas.

45. The apparatus defined by claim 33 wherein said feedback suppression means includes RF absorbing material in a feedback path between said antennas.

46. The apparatus defined by claim 33 wherein said feedback suppression means
25 includes a digital adaptive cancellation system.

47. The apparatus defined by claim 33 wherein said antennas are each configured to be directive.

48. The apparatus defined by claim 33 in combination with a mounting bracket, the bracket supporting said repeater for rotation to facilitate pointing of said repeater toward
30 a broadcast source of RF signals to be amplified and rebroadcast to improve the gain performance of said repeater.

49. The apparatus defined by claim 33 wherein said repeater includes an automatic gain control circuit.

50. The apparatus defined by claim 33 wherein said feedback suppression means includes means for choking, means for absorbing and means for canceling feedback energy.

51. A flat panel signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising closely spaced parallel and oppositely directed 5 antennas, said repeater including an RF feedback-suppression choke structure in the feedback path between said antennas.

52. The apparatus defined by claim 51 wherein said RF choke structure comprises a series of fins.

53. The apparatus defined by claim 52 wherein said RF choke structure comprises 10 a series of axially spaced outwardly extending fins surrounding the periphery of said repeater.

54. The apparatus defined by claim 52 wherein said RF choke structure comprises a series of axially directed concentric fins around the face of at least one of said antennas.

55. The apparatus defined by claim 51 wherein said choke structure supports RF energy absorptive material to further enhance feedback suppression.

56. An extremely compact, self-contained, easy-to-install, signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, said repeater comprising:

a. a flat panel assembly with width and height dimensions which are each a multiple of its thickness dimension, said flat panel assembly comprising a stacked array of 20 generally planar, closely spaced components including donor and null antennas, the close proximity of said antennas undesirably promoting strong feedback between said antennas; and

b. means for suppressing feedback between said antennas to improve side-to-side isolation and gain performance, including:

i. means for permanently coupling said antennas in 180 degree direction-opposed relationship;

ii. said donor and null beams being constructed, arranged and driven to produce directive beams; and

iii. at least one of said antennas having a ground plane and one or more radiating 30 elements grouped in a central area of said ground plane, the area of said ground plane being significantly greater than the area of said central area.

57. The apparatus defined by claim 56 wherein one of said antennas produces a beam that has a narrower half power beam width than said the beam produced by the other of said antennas.

58. The apparatus defined by claim 57 wherein the beam width of said one antenna is about 30 degrees, plus or minus 5 degrees and wherein the beam width of said other antenna is about 60 degrees, plus or minus 10 degrees.

59. The apparatus defined by claim 56 wherein the ratio of ground plane area to central area is in the range of about 2 to 5.

60. The apparatus defined by claim 56 wherein the ratio of ground plane area to central area is about 5.

61. The apparatus defined by claim 56 wherein at least one of said antennas are constructed, arranged and driven to produce a null in the array factor on the horizons to reduce the direct coupling between said antennas.

62. The apparatus defined by claim 56, said repeater being sized and configured for a selected frequency band having a predetermined center frequency with wavelength "X", the height, width and thickness dimensions of the repeater being such that feedback energy at wavelength X travels a feedback path around the repeater of predetermined length effective to improve side-to-side isolation.

63. The apparatus defined by claim 56 wherein one of said antennas emits RF radiation of a first polarization and the other of said antennas emits RF radiation of a second polarization which is orthogonal to said energy of said first polarization.

64. The apparatus defined by claim 56 wherein said repeater includes an electronic isolation enhancement system.

65. The apparatus defined by claim 63 wherein said system comprises a digital adaptive cancellation system.

66. The apparatus defined by claim 56 including an RF energy absorber in the path of feedback from one of said antennas to the other of said antennas.

67. A flat-panel signal repeater useful for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, said repeater comprising closely spaced parallel and oppositely directed antennas, said repeater being sized and configured such for a selected frequency band having a predetermined center frequency with wavelength "X", the height, width and thickness dimensions of the repeater are such that feedback energy at wavelength

X travels a feedback path around the repeater having a predetermined length effective to improve side-to-side isolation and gain performance of the repeater.

68. The apparatus defined by claim 67 wherein said repeater has a circular outer configuration such that all feedback paths are of equal length.

5 69. The apparatus defined by claim 67 wherein said repeater has a rectangular outer configuration and said dimensions are such that the length of said feedback path has a compromise length.

70. The apparatus defined by claim 67 wherein said repeater has a dielectric radome and an RF choke on the face of at least one of said antennas.

10 71. The apparatus defined by claim 70 wherein said RF choke comprises a concentric array of fins sized and spaced to produce, in combination with said radome, a reduction in said level of feedback energy of wavelength X.

15 72. A flat-panel signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising in a unitary structure having oppositely facing generally planar antennas, said repeater including an RF choke structure around the face of at least one of said antennas.

73. The apparatus defined by claim 72 wherein said RF choke comprises a series of axially directed concentric fins.

20 74. The apparatus defined by claim 73 wherein said fins have a height and spacing related to one fourth wavelength of the center frequency in a band of frequencies amplified and rebroadcast by said repeater.

75. The apparatus defined by claim 72 wherein an outermost of said fins has the greatest height, and successively inward fins have progressively decreasing height.

25 76. A flat panel signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising in a unitary structure having oppositely facing generally planar antennas, said repeater including an RF choke around the face of at least one of said antennas and a dielectric radome contiguous to said choke.

77. The apparatus defined by claim 76 wherein said RF choke comprises a series of concentric fins having a height and spacing related to one fourth wavelength of the center frequency in a band of frequencies amplified and rebroadcast by said repeater.

30 78. The apparatus defined by claim 77 wherein an outermost of said fins has the greatest height, and inner fins have progressively decreasing height, and wherein said radome is flat and abuts said outermost fin.

79. A flat-panel signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, comprising a unitary structure having oppositely facing antennas and electrically intervening amplification electronics which introduces a phase shift in amplified signals, said repeater being adapted for use with a selected frequency band

5 having a predetermined center frequency with wavelength "X", the height, width and thickness dimensions of the repeater being such that as feedback energy at wavelength X travels along a feedback path around the repeater from one of said antennas to the other of said antennas a predetermined phase shift is introduced, said predetermined phase shift being such that, when combined with said amplification electronics phase shift and other known

10 feedback phase shifts, is effective to improve the side-to-side isolation and gain performance of said repeater.

80. The apparatus defined by claim 79 including an RF choke structure in the feedback path between said antennas, and wherein said other known feedback phase shifts includes a phase shift introduced by said RF choke structure.

15 81. To extend coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS and other communication systems, a signal repeating method comprising:

a. providing a unitary structure having oppositely facing antennas; and

b. suppressing RF feedback energy to improve side-to-side isolation and gain performance.

20 82. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the suppressing includes canceling at least a portion of the RF feedback energy.

83. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the suppressing includes sizing and locating radiating elements on each of the antennas centrally of an associated ground plane having sufficient area to contribute significant side-to-side isolation and gain performance.

25 84. The method defined by claim 81 including providing signal amplification, and automatically controlling the amplification gain during the repeating to prevent oscillation.

85. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the suppressing includes choking RF energy in a feedback path between the antennas.

86. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the suppressing includes absorbing

30 RF energy in a feedback path between the antennas.

87. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the suppressing includes configuring the antennas such as to produce directive beam patterns.

88. The method defined by claim 87 wherein the beam produced by one of said antennas has a narrower half power beam width than the beam produced by the other of said antennas.

89. The method defined by claim 88 wherein the half power beam width of one of said antennas is about 30 degrees, plus or minus 5 degrees, and wherein the half power beam width of the other of said antennas is about 60 degrees, plus or minus 10 degrees.

90. The method defined by claim 87 wherein the suppressing includes pointing the structure toward a broadcast source of RF signals to be amplified and re-broadcast to improve the gain performance of the repeater.

10 91. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the suppressing includes choking and at least partially canceling RF energy in a feedback path between the antennas.

92. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the suppressing includes choking, absorbing and canceling at least a portion of RF energy in a feedback path between the antennas.

15 93. The method defined by claim 83 wherein the ratio of ground plane area to central area is in the range of about 2 to 5.

94. The method defined by claim 83 wherein the ratio of ground plane area to central area is about 5.

95. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the method is useful for repeating signals in a selected frequency band having a predetermined center frequency with wavelength "X", and wherein the suppressing includes dimensioning the height, width and thickness of the structure such that feedback energy at wavelength X travels a feedback path around the repeater of predetermined length effective to improve side-to-side isolation.

96. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the suppressing includes configuring and driving one of said antennas to emit RF radiation of a first polarization, and configuring and driving the other of said antennas to emit RF radiation of a second polarization which is orthogonal to the energy of the first polarization.

97. The method defined by claim 95 wherein the structure is configured such that all feedback paths are of substantially equal length.

30 98. The method defined by claim 81 wherein the method includes amplifying signals in a selected frequency band having a predetermined center frequency with wavelength "X", producing a consequent amplification phase shift, and wherein the suppressing includes dimensioning the height, width and thickness of the structure such that

as feedback energy at wavelength X travels along a feedback path around the repeater from the null antenna to the donor antenna a predetermined phase shift is introduced, the predetermined phase shift, when combined with the amplification phase shift and other known feedback phase shifts, being effective to improve the side-to-side isolation and gain 5 performance of the repeater.

99. The method defined by claim 98 wherein the suppressing includes RF choking feedback energy in a feedback path between the antennas, and wherein the other known feedback phase shifts includes a phase shift introduced by the RF choking.

100. The method defined by claim 98 wherein the suppressing includes digitally 10 adaptively canceling at least a portion of the RF feedback energy.

101. The method defined by claim 98 wherein the suppressing includes absorbing at least a portion of the RF feedback energy.

102. A repeater system comprising:
at least one antenna element for communicating with a base station and at least one 15 antenna element for communicating with a remote station;
a radio frequency uplink path and a radio frequency downlink path coupled between said antennas; and
an adaptive cancellation circuit in each of said radio frequency uplink path and said radio frequency downlink path, which generates a cancellation signal, which when added to a 20 radio frequency signal in either of said radio frequency uplink and radio frequency downlink paths, substantially cancels any feedback signal present in said radio frequency signal.

103. The repeater system of claim 102 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit comprises a digital signal processor circuit which receives an incoming radio frequency signal from one of said radio frequency uplink and downlink paths, said radio frequency 25 signal having a feedback signal component, and which digitally samples and processes said incoming radio frequency signal to generate an intermediate frequency signal, and a modulator circuit which receives said intermediate frequency signal and a sample of a radio frequency output signal from said one of said radio frequency uplink and downlink paths and generates said cancellation signal.

30 104. The system of claim 103 wherein said digital signal processor comprises a radio frequency downconverter which converts said incoming radio frequency signal to a lower frequency signal for digital sampling, an analog-to-digital converter coupled to the radio frequency downconverter, which analog-to-digital converter digitizes said lower

frequency signal, and a processor coupled to the analog-to-digital converter which computes a desired intermediate frequency signal for the modulator.

105. The system of claim 103 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit further includes a summing junction which receives and sums said intermediate frequency signal and 5 said incoming radio frequency signal.

106. The system of claim 105 wherein said digital signal processor circuit receives an output of said summing junction.

107. The system of claim 106 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit further includes a filter coupled to receive the output of said summing junction and a power amplifier 10 coupled to receive the output of said filter.

108. The system of claim 104 wherein said modulator circuit comprises a controllable attenuator which receives and attenuates the radio frequency output signal and an I/Q modulator coupled to said attenuator and to said processor.

109. The system of claim 102 wherein said repeater comprises:
15 a housing having a pair of substantially 180° oppositely facing surfaces;
at least one antenna element mounted to each of said surfaces for radiating energy in a direction opposite to that of the antenna element mounted to the other of said surfaces; and
an electronic circuit mounted to said housing and operatively coupling signals
between at least one antenna element on each of said pair of oppositely facing surfaces of
20 said module.

110. The system of claim 109 wherein a single antenna element is mounted to each of said oppositely facing surfaces of said housing and wherein said electronic circuit includes a frequency diplexer operatively coupled with each of said antennas and a pair of signal transmission circuits coupled between said frequency diplexers.

25 111. The system of claim 110 wherein each of said signal transmission circuits transmits a signal in one direction between said two antenna elements, each of said signal transmission circuits comprising a first filter to attenuate the bandwidth of incoming communications signals, an amplifier to amplify communications signals received from said first filter and a second filter located at an output of said amplifier to protect the amplifier
30 from signal power in the other signal transmission circuit.

112. The system of claim 109 wherein two antenna elements are mounted to each of side of said module housing, one for transmitting communications signals and one for receiving communications signals.

113. The system of claim 112 wherein said electronic circuit comprises a pair of signal transmission circuits, each forming a signal path between a transmitting antenna on one surface of said housing and a receiving antenna on the opposite surface of said housing, and wherein each of said signal transmission circuits comprises a first filter to attenuate the 5 bandwidth of incoming communications signals, an amplifier which amplifies communications signals received from the first filter, and a second filter located at an output of said amplifier to protect the amplifier from signal power in the other of said signal transmission circuits.

114. The system of claim 109 wherein each of said antenna elements comprises a 10 microstrip patch.

115. The system of claim 109 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit forms a part of said electronic circuit.

116. The system of claim 115 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit comprises a digital signal processor circuit which receives an incoming radio frequency signal from one 15 of said radio frequency uplink and downlink paths, said radio frequency signal having a feedback signal component, and which digitally samples and processes said incoming radio frequency signal to generate an intermediate frequency signal, and a modulator circuit which receives said intermediate frequency signal and a sample of a radio frequency output signal from said one of said radio frequency uplink and downlink paths and generates said 20 cancellation signal.

117. The system of claim 116 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit further includes a summing junction which receives and sums said cancellation signal and said incoming radio frequency signal.

118. The system of claim 116 wherein said digital signal processor circuit receives 25 an output of said summing junction.

119. The system of claim 117 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit further includes a filter coupled to receive the output of said summing junction and a power amplifier coupled to receive the output of said filter.

120. An integrated repeater comprising:

30 a housing having opposing sides;
a first antenna mounted closely adjacent to one of the opposing sides of said housing;
a second antenna mounted closely adjacent to the other of said opposing sides of said housing;

repeater electronics mounted in said housing and operatively interconnecting said antennas; and

a beamforming arrangement for creating a desired antenna pattern of each of said antennas.

5 121. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said repeater electronics further include a downlink channel module and an uplink channel module operatively coupled between said antennas.

10 122. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements and wherein said beamforming arrangement includes a Butler matrix comprising a part of said repeater electronics and operatively coupled with each of said antenna arrays.

123. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said antennas each include separate transmit and receive antenna arrays.

15 124. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein each of said antennas comprise an antenna array comprising a plurality of patch antenna elements arranged in an M by N array.

125. The integrated repeater of claim 124 wherein each of said antennas include separate transmit and receive antenna arrays.

20 126. The integrated repeater of claim 124 wherein each of said patch antenna elements comprises a reduced surface wave element.

127. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said donor antenna and said null antenna each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements and wherein said beamforming arrangement includes a plurality of stripline feeds of varying lengths coupled with said antenna elements and a switching circuit for selecting one or more of said 25 striplines to achieve a desired stripline delay.

128. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said repeater electronics further include an interference cancellation circuit for substantially cancelling radio frequency interference feedback signals between said antennas in both an uplink path and a downlink path.

30 129. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said repeater electronics further include a controller for providing setup, communications and monitoring functions for the repeater.

130. The integrated repeater of claim 128 wherein said repeater electronics further include a controller for providing setup, communications and monitoring functions for the repeater.

131. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements, wherein said beamforming arrangement comprises a Butler matrix comprising a part of said repeater electronics and operatively coupled with each of said antennas, and further including a memory for storing angle and elevation information for use in operating said Butler matrix.

132. The integrated repeater of claim 131 wherein said repeater electronics include amplifiers coupled intermediate said antennas and further including a controller for setting an amplifier gain of said amplifiers, using information stored in said memory.

133. The integrated repeater of claim 128 wherein said beamforming arrangement comprises a Butler matrix comprising a part of said repeater electronics and operatively coupled with each of said antennas and wherein said repeater electronics further include a memory for storing angle and elevation information for use in operating said Butler matrix.

134. The integrated repeater of claim 133 wherein said repeater electronics include amplifiers coupled intermediate said antennas and a controller which uses said memory for setting an amplifier gain of said amplifiers.

135. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements and wherein said beamforming arrangement includes a plurality of phase shifters respectively coupled with the antenna elements and each of said antenna arrays, a controller for controlling operation of said phase shifting elements, and said phase shifting elements being coupled with a corporate feed to a radio frequency output.

136. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements and wherein said beamforming arrangement comprises a plurality of striplines, each having a length adjusted for variable stripline delay, coupled respectively with the antenna elements of the antenna arrays and a plurality of RF switches coupled with said striplines.

137. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said antennas are mounted upon said opposing sides of said housing.

138. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein said antennas each comprise a flat panel and said beamforming arrangement comprising a mounting structure for mounting

each of said flat panels on one side of said housing for rotational movement relative to said housing.

139. An integrated repeater comprising:

a housing having opposing sides;

5 a first antenna mounted closely adjacent to one of the opposing sides of said housing;

a second antenna mounted closely adjacent to the other of said opposing sides of said

housing;

repeater electronics mounted in said housing and operatively interconnecting said antennas; and

10 said repeater electronics including an interference cancellation circuit for cancelling interference feedback signals between said antennas in both an uplink path and a downlink path.

140. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said repeater electronics further include a downlink channel module and an uplink channel module operatively coupled 15 between said antennas.

141. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said antennas each include separate transmit and receive antenna arrays.

142. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein each of said antennas comprise an antenna array comprising a plurality of patch antenna elements arranged in a an M by N 20 array.

143. The integrated repeater of claim 142 wherein said antennas each include separate transmit and receive antenna arrays.

144. The integrated repeater of claim 142 wherein each of said patch antenna elements comprises a reduced surface wave element.

25 145. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements and wherein said beamforming arrangement includes a plurality of stripline feeds of varying lengths coupled with said antenna elements and a switching circuit for selecting said striplines to achieve a desired stripline delay.

30 146. The integrated repeater of claim 139 and further including a means for creating a desired antenna pattern of said first antenna relative to a base station and a desired antenna pattern of said second antenna relative to subscriber equipment.

147. The integrated repeater of claim 146 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements, and wherein said beamforming means includes a Butler matrix comprising part of said repeater electronics and operatively coupled with each of said antenna arrays.

5 148. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said repeater electronics further include a controller for providing setup, communications and monitoring functions for the repeater.

149. The integrated repeater of claim 146 wherein said repeater electronics further include a controller for providing setup, communications and monitoring functions for the
10 repeater.

150. The integrated repeater of claim 149 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements, wherein said beamforming means comprises a Butler matrix comprising part of said repeater electronics and operatively coupled with each of said antenna arrays, and further including a memory for storing angle
15 and elevation information for use in operating said Butler matrix.

151. The integrated repeater of claim 150 wherein said repeater electronics include amplifiers coupled intermediate said antennas and further including a controller for setting an amplifier gain of said amplifiers, using information stored in said memory.

152. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said interference cancellation
20 circuit comprises an adaptive cancellation circuit which generates a cancellation signal, which when added to a radio frequency signal substantially cancels any feedback signal present in said radio frequency signal.

153. The integrated repeater of claim 152 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit comprises a digital signal processor circuit which receives an incoming radio frequency
25 signal having a feedback signal component, and which digitally samples and processes said incoming radio frequency signal to generate an intermediate frequency signal, and a modulator circuit which receives said intermediate frequency signal and a sample of a radio frequency output signal and generates said cancellation signal.

154. The integrated repeater of claim 153 wherein said digital signal processor
30 comprises a radio frequency downconverter which converts said incoming radio frequency signal to a lower frequency signal for digital sampling, an analog-to-digital converter coupled to the radio frequency downconverter, which analog-to-digital converter digitizes said lower

frequency signal, and a processor coupled to the analog-to-digital converter which computes a desired intermediate frequency signal for the modulator.

155. The integrated repeater of claim 153 wherein said adaptive cancellation circuit further includes a summing junction which receives and sums said intermediate frequency signal and said incoming radio frequency signal.

156. The integrated repeater of claim 155 wherein said digital signal processor circuit receives an output of said summing junction.

157. The integrated repeater of claim 154 wherein said modulator circuit comprises a controllable attenuator which receives and attenuates the radio frequency output signal and 10 an I/Q modulator coupled to said attenuator and to said processor.

158. The integrated repeater of claim 146 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements and wherein said beamforming means includes a plurality of phase shifters respectively coupled with the antenna elements in each of said antenna arrays, a controller for controlling operation of said phase shifting elements, 15 and said phase shifting elements being coupled with a corporate feed to a radio frequency output.

159. The integrated repeater of claim 146 wherein said antennas each comprise an antenna array having a plurality of antenna elements and wherein said beamforming means comprises a plurality of striplines having length adjusted for variable stripline delay and 20 coupled respectively with the antenna elements of the antenna arrays and a plurality of RF switches coupled with said striplines.

160. The integrated repeater of claim 146 wherein said donor antenna and said null antenna are mounted upon said opposing sides of said housing.

161. The integrated repeater of claim 146 wherein said antennas each comprise flat 25 panels and wherein said beamforming means comprises a mounting structure for mounting each of said flat panels on one side of said housing.

162. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said antennas each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material on each said antenna face.

30 163. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said antennas each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said antenna face.

164. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said antennas each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon, each of said antennas defining a peripheral edge surface, and a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said peripheral edge surface.

5 165. The integrated repeater of claim 164 and further including a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material between at least some of said chokes.

166. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said antennas each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material surround each said antenna face.

10 167. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said antennas each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said antenna face.

15 168. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said donor antenna and said null antenna each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon, and a peripheral edge surface, and a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said peripheral edge surface.

169. The integrated repeater of claim 168 and further including a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material between at least some of said chokes.

170. The integrated repeater of claim 164 and further including a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material on each said antenna face.

171. The integrated repeater of claim 166 and further including a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said antenna face.

172. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein said donor antenna and said null antenna each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a peripheral edge surface, and a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said peripheral edge surface.

173. The integrated repeater of claim 172 and further including a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material between at least some of said chokes and on each said antenna face.

30 174. An integrated repeater comprising:
a housing having opposing sides;
a first antenna mounted on one of the opposing sides of said housing;
a second antenna mounted on the other of said opposing sides of said housing;

repeater electronics mounted in said housing and operatively interconnecting said antennas;

wherein said antennas each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material on 5 each said antenna face.

175. The integrated repeater of claim 174 wherein said antennas each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material on each said antenna face.

176. The integrated repeater of claim 174 wherein said antennas each comprise a 10 relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said antenna face.

177. The integrated repeater of claim 174 wherein said antennas each comprise a relatively flat antenna face having one or more antenna elements mounted thereon and a peripheral edge surface, and a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said peripheral 15 edge surface.

178. The integrated repeater of claim 177 and further including a quantity of radio frequency absorbent material between said chokes.

179. The integrated repeater of claim 174 wherein each of said antennas comprise flat panels and further including a beamforming arrangement comprising a mounting 20 structure for mounting each of said flat panels on one side of said housing for rotational movement relative to said housing.

180. The integrated repeater of claim 179 and further including a plurality of radio frequency chokes surrounding said antenna face.

181. The integrated repeater of claim 180 and further including a quantity of radio 25 frequency absorbent material between at least some of said chokes.

182. A method of repeating a radio frequency signal comprising:

receiving said radio frequency signal at one of a first antenna mounted on one of opposing sides of a housing and a second antenna mounted on the other of said opposing sides of said housing;

30 routing said signal through repeater electronics mounted in said housing and operatively interconnecting said antennas;

transmitting said radio frequency signal from the other of said antennas; and

beamforming for a desired antenna pattern of said first antenna and a desired antenna pattern of said second antenna.

183. The method of claim 182 further including cancelling radio frequency interference feedback signals between said donor and null antennas in both an uplink path 5 and a downlink path.

184. The method of claim 182 and further including providing setup, communications and monitoring functions for the repeater.

185. The method of claim 183 further including providing setup, communications and monitoring functions for the repeater.

10 186. The method of claim 182 further including storing angle and elevation information for use in said beamforming.

187. The method of claim 182 further including setting an amplifier gain of amplifiers coupled intermediate said antennas.

15 188. The method of claim 183 further including storing angle and elevation information for use in beamforming.

189. The method of claim 188 further including setting an amplifier gain of amplifiers coupled intermediate said antennas.

190. The method of claim 182 wherein said beamforming includes phase shifting antenna elements in a first antenna array and a second antenna array using a controller and 20 coupling phase shifted signals via a corporate feed to a radio frequency output.

191. The method of claim 182 wherein said beamforming comprises selecting the lengths of a plurality of striplines coupled respectively with the antenna elements of the donor antenna array and null antenna array for variable stripline delay and RF switching said striplines.

25 192. The method of claim 182 wherein said beamforming comprises rotating said antennas.

193. A method of repeating a radio frequency signal comprising:
receiving said radio frequency signal at one of a first antenna mounted on one of opposing sides of a housing and a second antenna mounted on the other of said opposing 30 sides of said housing;

routing said signal through repeater electronics mounted in said housing operatively interconnecting said antennas;

transmitting said radio frequency signal from the other of said antennas; and

canceling interference feedback signals between said antennas in both an uplink path and a downlink path.

194. The method of claim 193 and further including beamforming for creating a desired antenna pattern of said first antenna and a desired antenna pattern of said second 5 antenna.

195. The method of claim 193 wherein said cancelling interference feedback signals comprises generating a cancellation signal, which when added to a radio frequency signal substantially cancels any feedback signal present in said radio frequency signal.

196. The method of claim 195 wherein said generating comprises digitally 10 sampling and processing an incoming radio frequency signal having a feedback signal component to generate an intermediate frequency signal, and processing said intermediate frequency signal and a sample of a radio frequency output signal to generate said cancellation signal.

197. The method of claim 196 wherein said processing comprises converting said 15 incoming radio frequency signal to a lower frequency signal for digital sampling, digitizing said lower frequency signal, and computing a desired intermediate frequency signal for the modulator.

198. The method of claim 196 further including summing said intermediate frequency signal and said incoming radio frequency signal.

200 199. The method of claim 196 wherein said processing comprises controllably attenuating the radio frequency output signal sample and I/Q modulating the attenuated signal sample.

200. The integrated repeater of claim 120 wherein the donor antenna and null antennas are orthogonally polarized.

201. The integrated repeater of claim 139 wherein the donor antenna and null antennas are orthogonally polarized.

202. The integrated repeater of claim 174 wherein the donor antenna and null antennas are orthogonally polarized.

203. The integrated repeater of claim 120 and further including a solar powered 30 battery mounted to said housing.

204. The integrated repeater of claim 120 and further including a solar powered battery mounted to said housing.

205. The integrated repeater of claim 139 and further including a solar powered battery mounted to said housing.

206. An integrated repeater comprising:

a housing having opposing sides;

5 a first antenna mounted closely adjacent to one of the opposing sides of said housing;

a second antenna mounted closely adjacent to the other of said opposing sides of said housing;

repeater electronics mounted in said housing and operatively interconnecting said antennas; and

10 a solar powered battery mounted to said housing.

207. A repeater diversity system comprising:

a main null antenna having a given phase center and polarization for receiving a communications signal from a remote signal source;

a donor antenna for transmitting a signal to a base station;

15 a diversity null antenna having the same phase center as the main null antenna and a polarization orthogonal to the polarization of the main null antenna;

a combining network coupled to the main null antenna and the diversity null antenna for combining the signals therefrom; and

an uplink channel module coupled with said combining network for delivering

20 diversity combined receive signals to said donor antenna.

208. The system of claim 207 wherein said combining network combines a signal from the main null antenna and the diversity null antenna with a fixed phase adjustment.

209. The system of claim 207 and further including a low noise amplifier coupled intermediate said main null antenna and said combining network and having a predetermined gain, and a second low noise amplifier coupled intermediate said diversity null antenna and said combining network and having the same gain as the first low noise amplifier, such that the signals from the main null antenna and the diversity null antenna are combined at the combining network with equal gain.

210. The system of claim 207 and further including separate transmit and receive

30 main null antenna elements.

211. The system of claim 207 and further including a downlink channel module connecting the donor antenna with the main null antenna.

212. The system of claim 207 and further including a frequency diplexer coupled with said main null antenna for processing transmit and receive signals in separate transmit and receive channels.

213. The system of claim 207 and further including a frequency diplexer coupled with said donor antenna for processing transmit and receive signals in separate channels.

214. The system of claim 207 and further including a diversity filter coupled in series with said diversity null antenna and said second low noise amplifier.

215. The system of claim 207 and further including separate transmit and receive donor antenna elements.

216. The system of claim 207 and further including a power amplifier coupled intermediate said uplink channel module and said donor antenna.

217. The system of claim 211 and further including a power amplifier coupled intermediate said downlink channel module and said main null antenna.

218. The system of claim 211 and further including a low noise amplifier coupled between said donor antenna and said downlink channel module.

219. A radio frequency switched beam planar antenna system comprising:
a support structure including at least one substantially planar surface;
a plurality of antenna elements mounted to said planar surface of said support structure;

20 a Butler matrix mounted to said support structure, said Butler matrix having a plurality of inputs coupled respectively with said antenna elements and a plurality of outputs; and

25 a radio frequency switching circuit mounted to said support structure and operatively coupled with said outputs of said Butler matrix and having a control port responsive to a control signal for causing said switching circuit to select one of said outputs of said Butler matrix at a time.

220. The system of claim 219 wherein said support structure comprises a housing.

221. The system of claim 219 wherein said support structure includes at least one printed circuit board.

30 222. The system of claim 220 wherein said support structure further includes one or more printed circuit boards mounted to said housing, said antenna elements, said Butler matrix and said radio frequency switch being mounted to said one or more printed circuit boards.

223. The system of claim 219 wherein said plurality of antenna elements are mounted in a horizontal array.

224. The system of claim 219 wherein said plurality of antenna elements comprise a plurality of vertical columns of antenna elements, said columns being arranged side by side in a horizontal array, and each said column being summed at one input of said Butler matrix.

225. The system of claim 219 wherein said plurality of antenna elements comprises a plurality of transmit antenna elements and a plurality of receive antenna elements and wherein said Butler matrix and said switching circuit are operatively coupled with one of said plurality of transmit antenna elements and said plurality of receive antenna elements and further including a second Butler matrix mounted to said support structure and having a plurality of inputs coupled with said receive antenna elements and a plurality of outputs, and a second radio frequency switching circuit mounted to said support structure and coupled to the outputs of said second Butler matrix and having a control port responsive to a control signal for causing said switching circuit to select one of the outputs of said second Butler matrix at a time.

226. The system of claim 221 wherein said at least one printed circuit board has a pair of oppositely facing planar surfaces, said plurality of antenna elements comprising a first plurality of antenna elements mounted to one of said planar surfaces and a second plurality of antenna elements mounted to the other of said planar surfaces.

227. The system of claim 221 wherein said plurality of antenna elements comprise a plurality of dipole antenna elements mounted to said at least one printed circuit board.

228. The system of claim 219 wherein said plurality of antenna elements comprise a plurality of patch/microstrip antenna elements.

229. The system of claim 219 and further including a radio frequency transceiver mounted to said support structure and operatively coupled with said radio frequency switch for sending radio frequency signals to, and receiving radio frequency signals from, the one of said outputs of said Butler matrix selected by said radio frequency switch.

230. The system of claim 229 and further including a modem mounted to said support structure and operatively coupled with said radio frequency transceiver, said modem developing said control signal for said control port of said radio frequency switching circuit.

231. The system of claim 225 and further including a radio frequency receiver circuit mounted to said support structure and coupled with said radio frequency switching for receiving a signal from the selected output of said Butler matrix; and

a radio frequency transmitter circuit coupled with said second radio frequency switching circuit for transmitting a signal to the selected output of said second Butler matrix.

232. The system of claim 231 and further including a modem mounted to said support structure and coupled with said radio frequency receiver and said radio frequency transmitter circuits, said modem developing said control signal for delivery to the control ports of said first and second radio frequency switching circuits.

233. A method of operating a radio frequency switched beam planar antenna comprising, in a common support structure:

receiving and transmitting radio frequency signals at a plurality of antenna elements 10 mounted to a planar surface;

coupling the antenna elements to at least one Butler matrix; said Butler matrix transforming the receive response of said plurality of antenna elements into a corresponding plurality of narrow beams which together give substantially the original view as the plurality of antenna elements; and

15 selecting one of said narrow beams from said Butler matrix at a time.

234. The method of claim 233 and further including transforming, at said Butler matrix, a plurality of narrow beam transmit signal responses to a wider angle spatial transmit signal; and wherein the step of selecting, includes selecting one of said narrow beams from said Butler matrix to be changed to a wider angle spatial response at a time.

20 235. The method of claim 233 and further including mounting the plurality of antenna elements in a horizontal array.

236. The method of claim 233 and further including mounting the plurality of antenna elements to form a plurality of vertical columns of antenna elements, with said columns being arranged side-by-side in a horizontal array and summing each column at an 25 input of said Butler matrix.

237. The method of claim 234 wherein said changing of beam responses to wider angle spatial responses is performed by a second Butler matrix independently of the Butler matrix for transforming the received response of the antenna elements.

238. The method of claim 233 and further including defining first and second 30 groups of said antenna elements, mounting a first group of said antenna elements to said planar surface and mounting a second group of antenna elements to a second, oppositely facing planar surface.

239. The method of claim 233 and further including sending radio frequency signals to, and receiving radio frequency signals from, the one of said outputs of said Butler matrix selected, using a radio frequency transceiver.

240. The method of claim 233 and further including developing and delivering a control signal for selecting one of said narrow beams from said Butler matrix at a time.

241. The method of claim 237 and further including developing and delivering a control signal for selecting one of said narrow beams from said Butler matrix at a time.

242. A method of re-transmitting a GPS signal inside a structure, the method comprising:

10 receiving the GPS signal;
amplifying the GPS signal to produce a second GPS signal; and
re-transmitting the second GPS signal inside the structure.

243. The method of claim 242, wherein the amplifying of the GPS signal includes down converting the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal, amplifying and 15 filtering the IF signal, and up converting the IF signal to produce a radio frequency (RF) signal.

244. The method of claim 243, wherein the RF signal is the second GPS signal.

245. The method of claim 243, wherein the RF signal is an unlicensed frequency signal.

20 246. The method of claim 245, further including:
re-transmitting the unlicensed frequency signal inside the structure;
receiving the unlicensed frequency signal;
down converting the unlicensed frequency signal to a second IF signal;
amplifying the second IF signal;
25 up converting the second IF signal to produce the second GPS signal.

247. The method of claim 242, further including filtering the GPS signal.

248. A method of re-transmitting a GPS signal inside a structure, the method comprising:

30 receiving the GPS signal;
down converting the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal;
amplifying and filtering the IF signal;
up converting the IF signal to an unlicensed frequency signal; and
re-transmitting the unlicensed frequency signal to a link antenna inside the structure.

249. The method of claim 248, wherein the re-transmitting the unlicensed frequency signal is between a primary repeater and the link antenna of a secondary repeater.

250. The method of claim 248, further including:

receiving the unlicensed frequency signal;

5 down converting the unlicensed frequency signal to a second IF signal;

amplifying the second IF signal;

up converting the second IF signal to a second GPS signal; and

re-transmitting the second GPS signal inside the structure.

251. A method of re-transmitting a GPS signal inside a structure, the method
10 comprising:

receiving the GPS signal;

down converting the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal;

amplifying the IF signal; and

up converting the IF signal to a second GPS signal; and

15 re-transmitting the second GPS signal inside the structure.

252. The method of claim 251, wherein the receiving is performed by a primary repeater.

253. The method of claim 252, wherein the primary repeater is coupled to an internal antenna by a transmission line.

20 254. The method of claim 253, wherein the internal antenna performs the re-transmitting.

255. A method of re-transmitting a GPS signal inside a structure, the method comprising:

receiving the GPS signal;

25 down converting the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal;

amplifying the IF signal;

up converting the IF signal to an unlicensed frequency signal;

re-transmitting the unlicensed frequency signal to a link antenna inside the structure;

receiving the unlicensed frequency signal;

30 down converting the unlicensed frequency signal to a second IF signal;

amplifying the second IF signal;

up converting the second IF signal to a second GPS signal; and

re-transmitting the second GPS signal inside the structure.

256. The method of claim 255, wherein the re-transmitting the unlicensed frequency signal is between a primary repeater and the link antenna of a secondary repeater.

257. A GPS repeater for re-transmitting a GPS signal inside a structure, the repeater comprising:

- 5 a link antenna for receiving the GPS signal;
- an amplifier for amplifying the GPS signal to produce a second GPS signal; and
- a broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the second GPS signal inside the structure.

258. The repeater of claim 257, wherein the amplifier down converts the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal, amplifies and filters the IF signal, and up 10 converts the IF signal to produce a radio frequency (RF) signal.

259. The repeater of claim 258, wherein the RF signal is the second GPS signal.

260. The repeater of claim 258, wherein the RF signal is an unlicensed frequency signal.

261. The repeater of claim 260, further including a broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the unlicensed frequency signal inside the structure, and a secondary repeater for 15 receiving the unlicensed frequency signal, down converting the unlicensed frequency signal to a second IF signal, amplifying and filtering the second IF signal, and up converting the second IF signal to produce the second GPS signal.

262. The repeater of claim 257, wherein the amplifier includes a down converter 20 for down converting the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal, a first amplifier for amplifying the IF signal, a filter for filtering the IF signal, a second amplifier for amplifying the IF signal and an up converter for up converting the IF signal to produce the second GPS signal.

263. The repeater of claim 257, wherein the amplifier includes a filter for filtering 25 the GPS signal.

264. A GPS repeater system for re-transmitting a GPS signal inside a structure, the repeater system comprising:

- a primary repeater having a link antenna for receiving the GPS signal, a down converter for down converting the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal, an 30 amplifier for amplifying the IF signal, an up converter for up converting the IF signal to a radio frequency (RF) signal, and a broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the RF signal inside the structure.

265. The system of claim 264, wherein the RF signal is a GPS signal.

266. The system of claim 264, wherein the RF signal is an unlicensed frequency signal.

267. The system of claim 266, further including a secondary repeater having a second link antenna for receiving the unlicensed frequency signal, a second down converter 5 for down converting the unlicensed frequency signal to a second IF signal, a second amplifier for amplifying the second IF signal, a second up converter for up converting the second IF signal to a second GPS signal, and a second broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the second GPS signal inside the structure.

268. A GPS repeater for re-transmitting a GPS signal inside a structure, the repeater 10 comprising:

a link antenna for receiving the GPS signal;
a down converter for down converting the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal;
an amplifier for amplifying the IF signal; and
15 an up converter for up converting the IF signal to a second GPS signal; and
a broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the second GPS signal inside the structure.

269. The repeater of claim 268, further including a housing containing the down converter, the amplifier and the up converter, the link antenna being connected to the housing by a transmission line.

270. The repeater of claim 269, wherein the broadcast antenna is connected to the housing by a transmission line.

271. The repeater of claim 268, wherein the amplifier includes a filter for filtering the IF signal.

272. A GPS repeater system for re-transmitting a GPS signal inside a structure, the 25 repeater system comprising:

a primary repeater having a link antenna for receiving the GPS signal, a down converter for down converting the GPS signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal, an amplifier for amplifying the IF signal, an up converter for up converting the IF signal to an unlicensed frequency signal, and a broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the unlicensed 30 frequency signal, inside the structure, to a secondary repeater;

the secondary repeater having a second link antenna for receiving the unlicensed frequency signal, a second down converter for down converting the unlicensed frequency signal to a second IF signal, a second amplifier for amplifying the second IF signal, a second

up converter for up converting the second IF signal to a second GPS signal, and a second broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the second GPS signal inside the structure.

273. The system of claim 272, wherein the unlicensed frequency signal is about 2.4 GHz.

5 274. The system of claim 272, wherein the unlicensed frequency signal is about 902-928 MHz.

275. The system of claim 272, wherein the GPS signal is about 1.5 GHz.

276. The system of claim 272, wherein the IF signal is about 140-160 MHz.

10 277. A method of re-transmitting a satellite signal inside a structure, the method comprising:

receiving the satellite signal;
amplifying the satellite signal to produce a second satellite signal; and
re-transmitting the second satellite signal inside the structure.

15 278. The method of claim 277, wherein the amplifying of the satellite signal includes down converting the satellite signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal, amplifying and filtering the IF signal, and up converting the IF signal to produce a radio frequency (RF) signal.

279. The method of claim 278, wherein the RF signal is the second satellite signal.

20 280. The method of claim 278, wherein the RF signal is an unlicensed frequency signal.

281. The method of claim 280, further including:

re-transmitting the unlicensed frequency signal inside the structure;

receiving the unlicensed frequency signal;

down converting the unlicensed frequency signal to a second IF signal;

25 amplifying the second IF signal;

up converting the second IF signal to produce the second satellite signal.

282. The method of claim 277, wherein the satellite signal is a digital radio signal.

283. A repeater for re-transmitting a satellite signal inside a structure, the repeater comprising:

30 a link antenna for receiving the satellite signal;

an amplifier for amplifying the satellite signal to produce a second satellite signal; and
a broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the second satellite signal inside the structure.

284. The repeater of claim 283, wherein the amplifier down converts the satellite signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal, amplifies and filters the IF signal, and up converts the IF signal to produce a radio frequency (RF) signal.

285 The repeater of claim 284, wherein the RF signal is the second satellite signal.

5 286. The repeater of claim 284, wherein the RF signal is an unlicensed frequency signal.

287. The repeater of claim 286, further including a broadcast antenna for re-transmitting the unlicensed frequency signal inside the structure, and a secondary repeater for receiving the unlicensed frequency signal, down converting the unlicensed frequency signal 10 to a second IF signal, amplifying and filtering the second IF signal, and up converting the second IF signal to produce the second satellite signal.

288. The repeater of claim 283, wherein the satellite signal is a digital radio signal.

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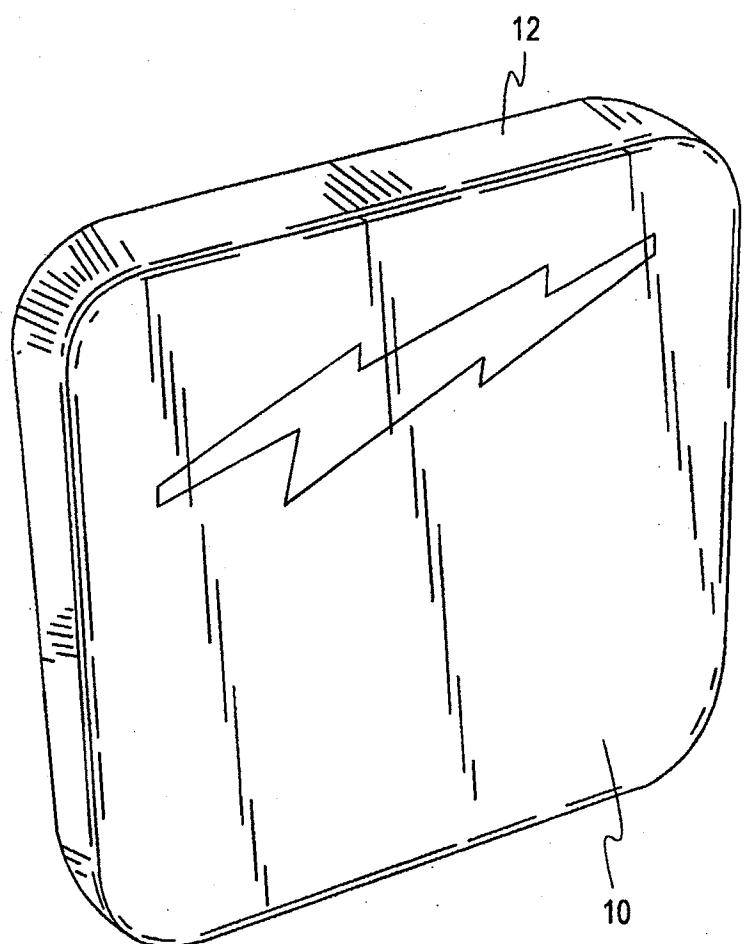
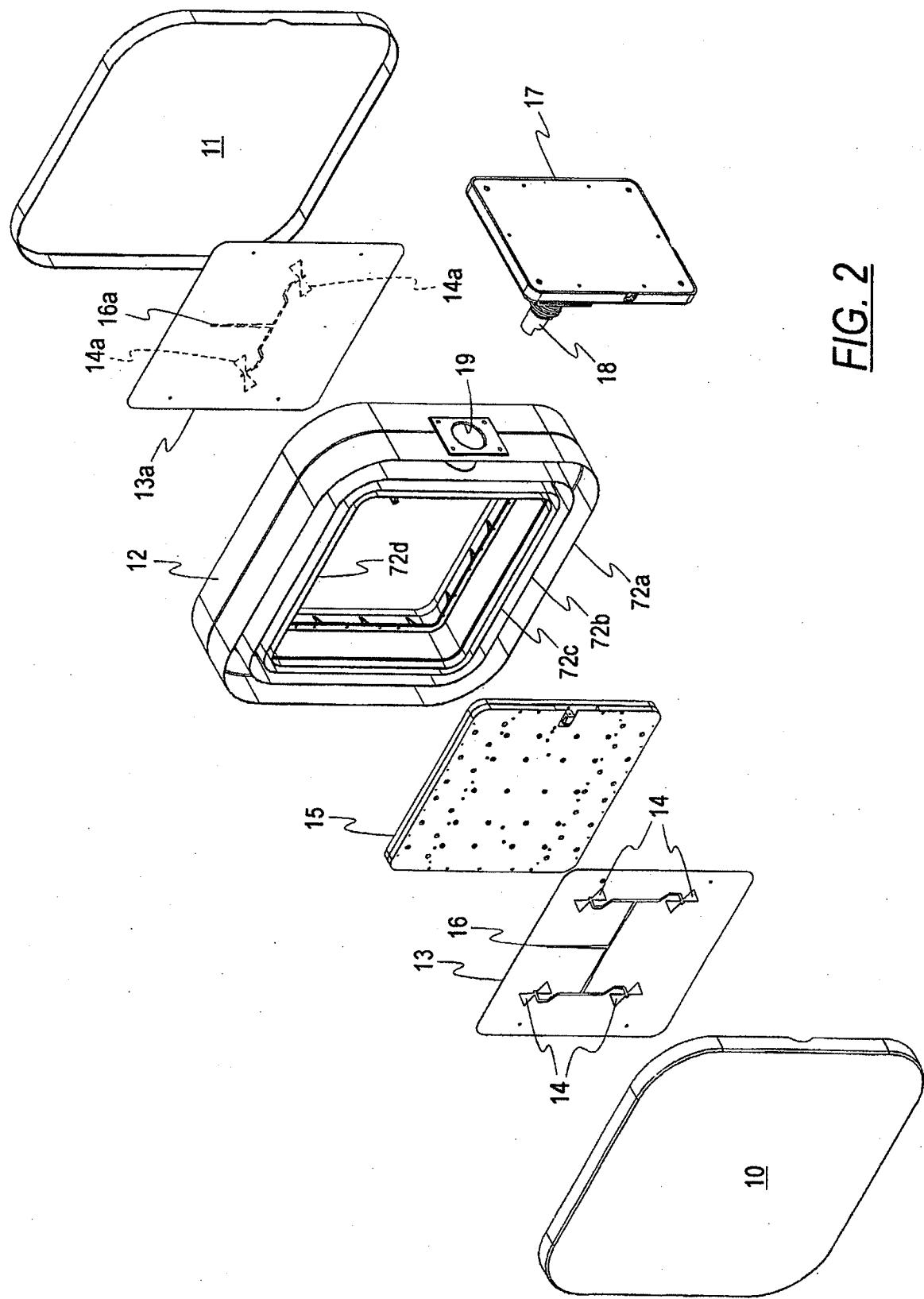
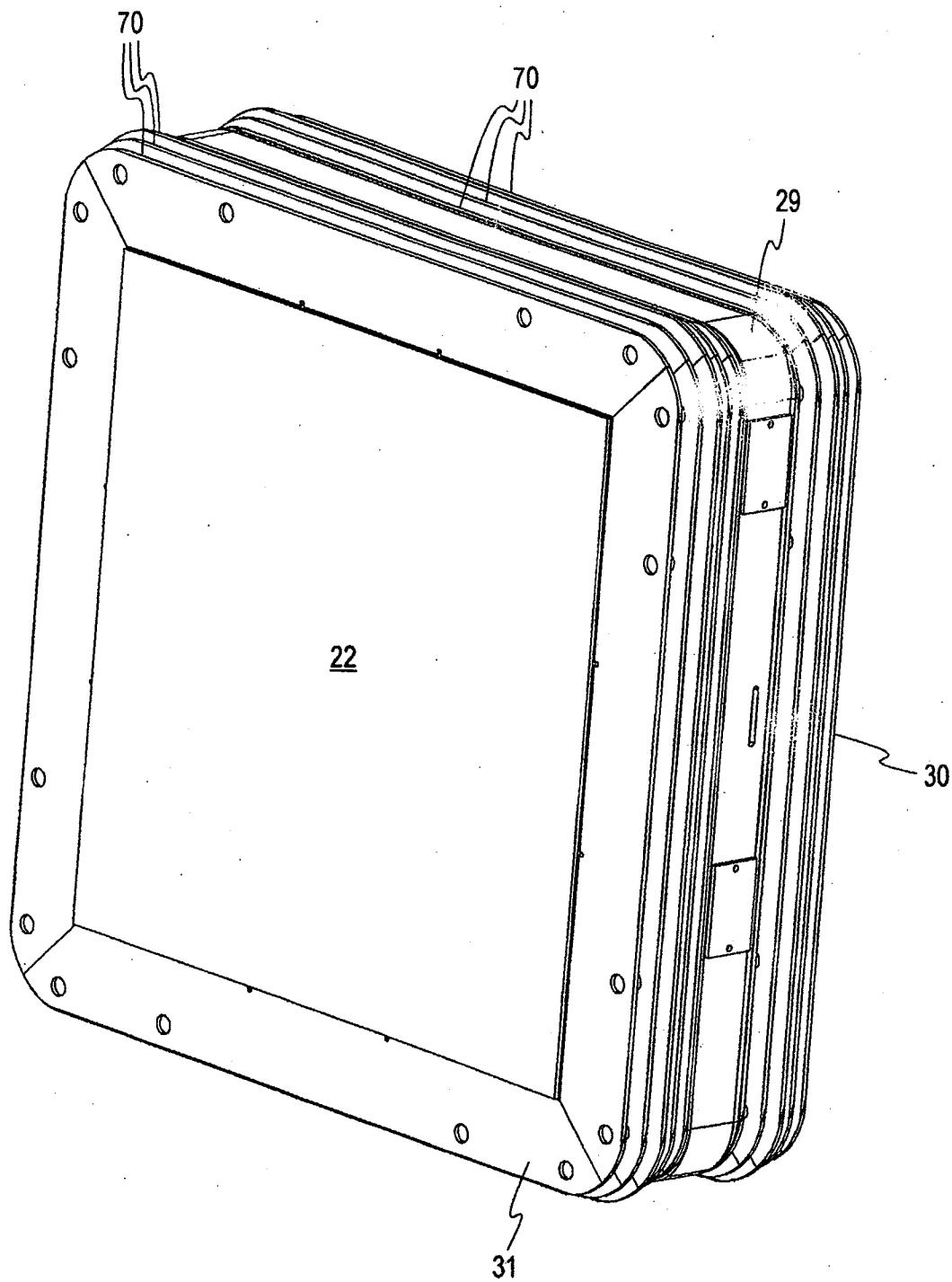


FIG. 1



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FIG. 3

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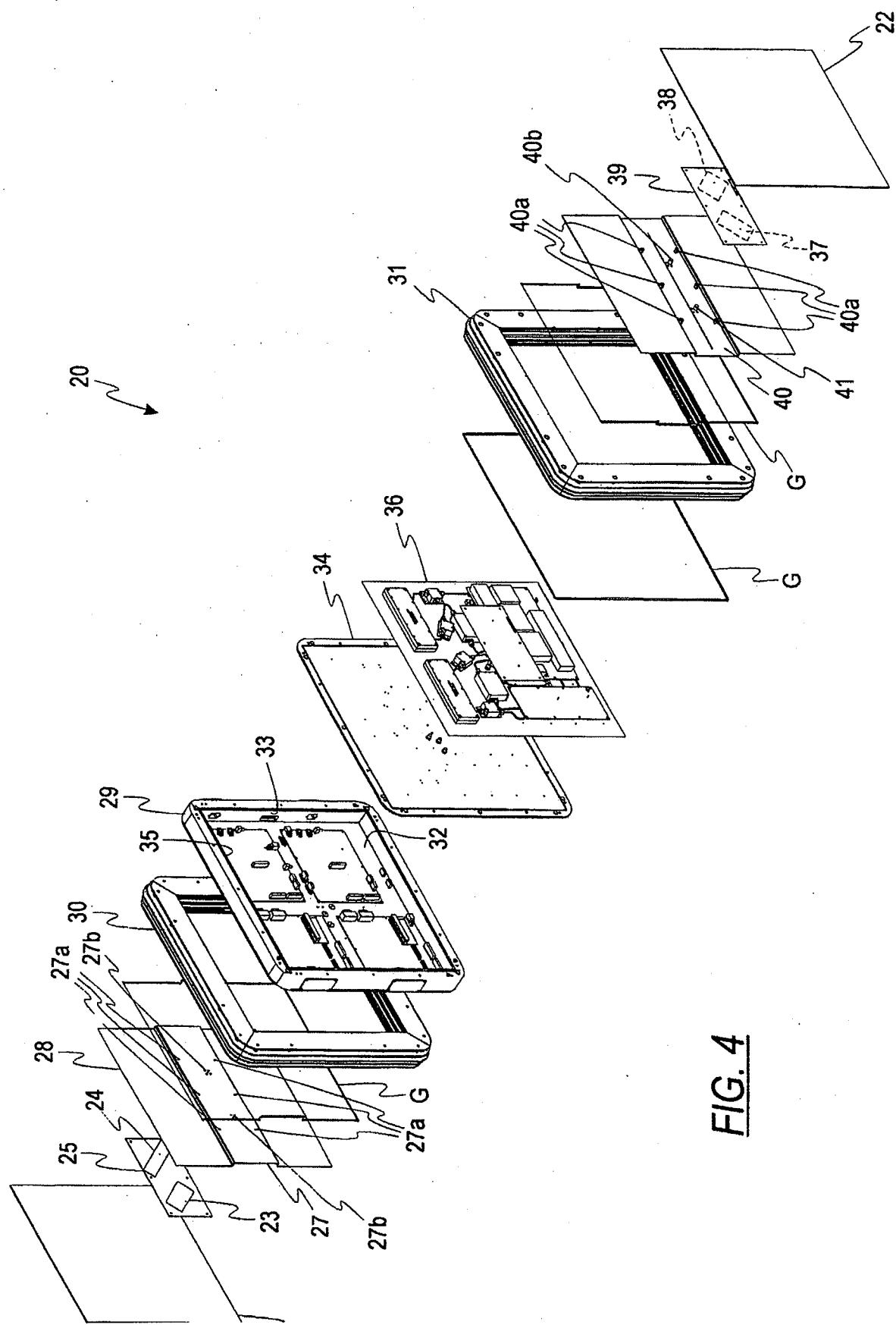
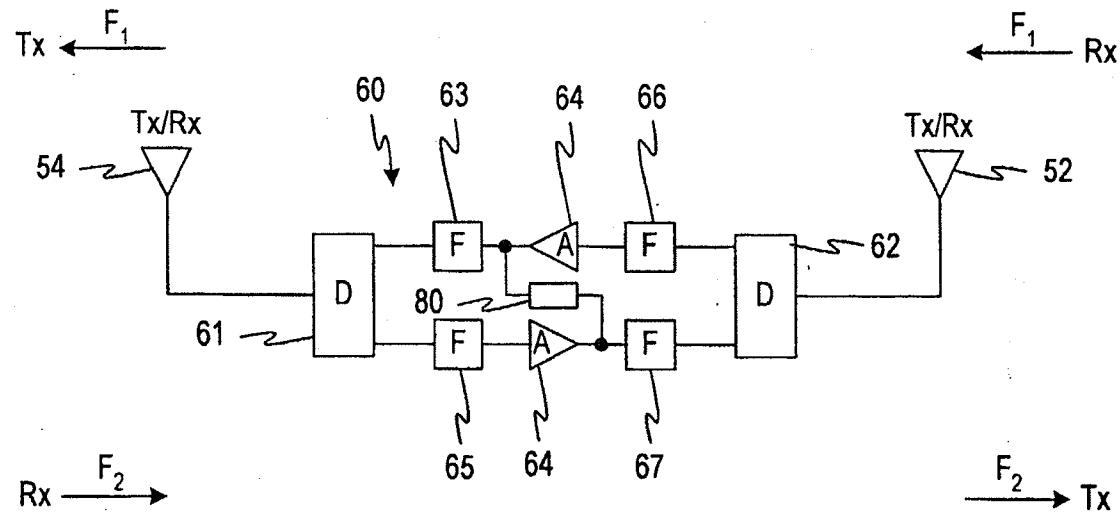
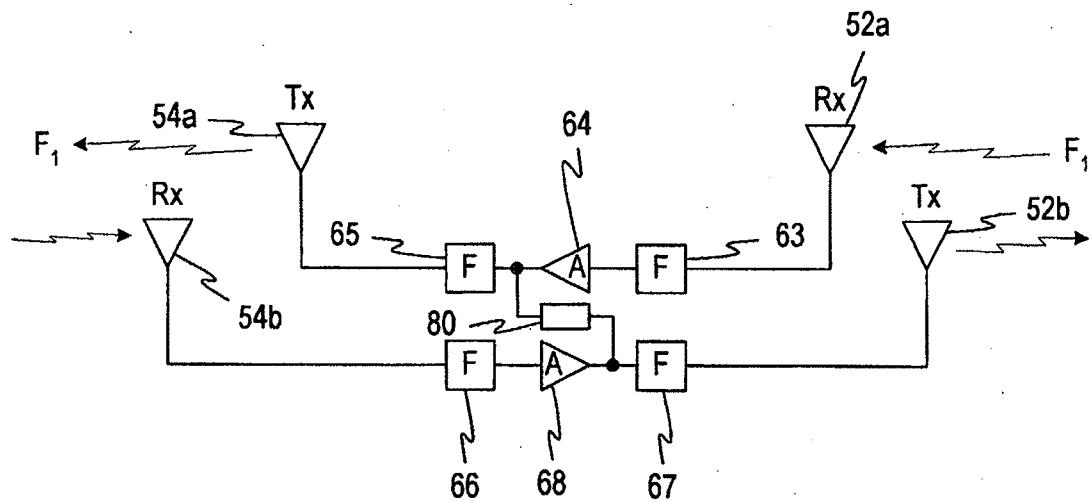


FIG. 4

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FIG. 5FIG. 6

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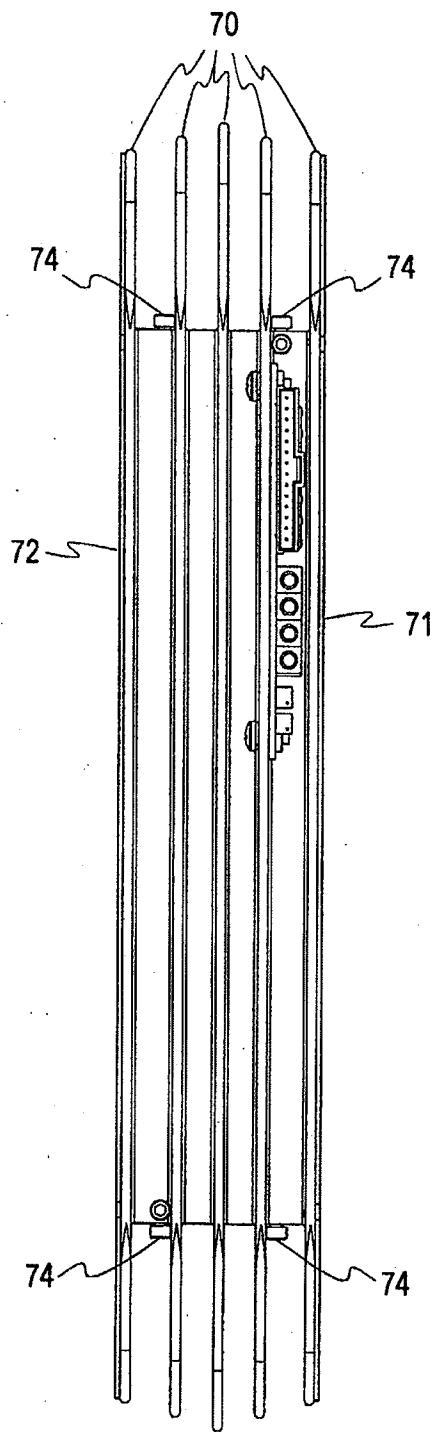


FIG. 7

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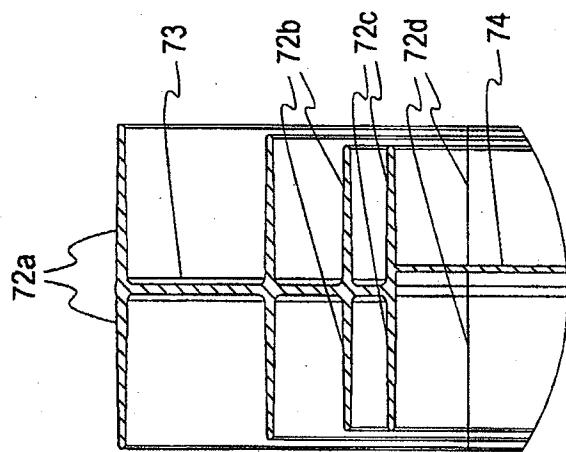


FIG. 9

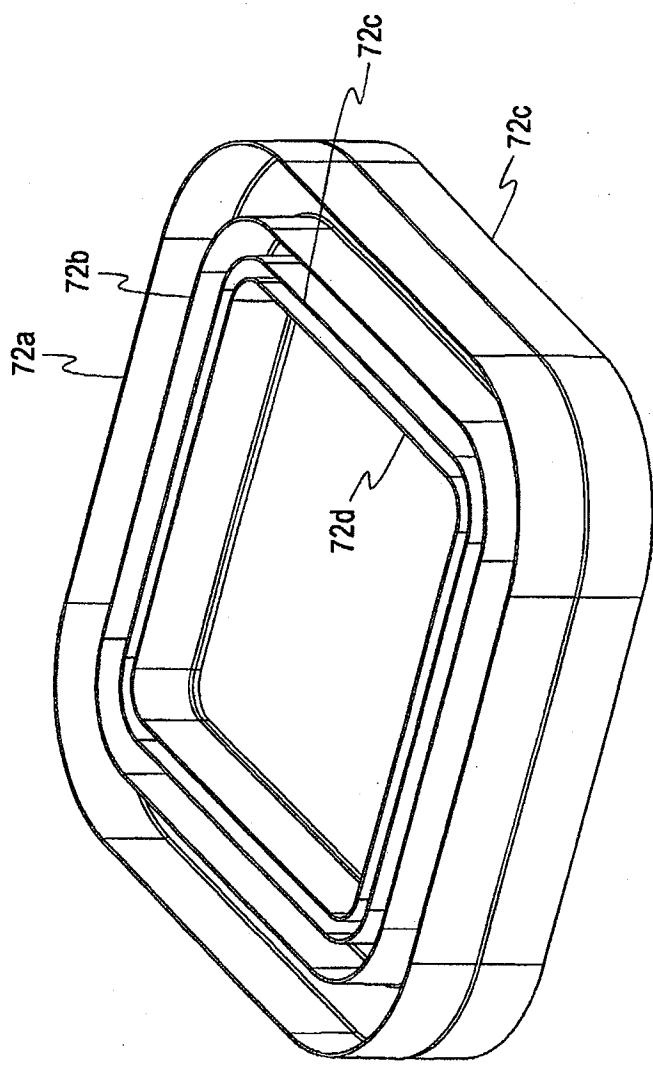


FIG. 8

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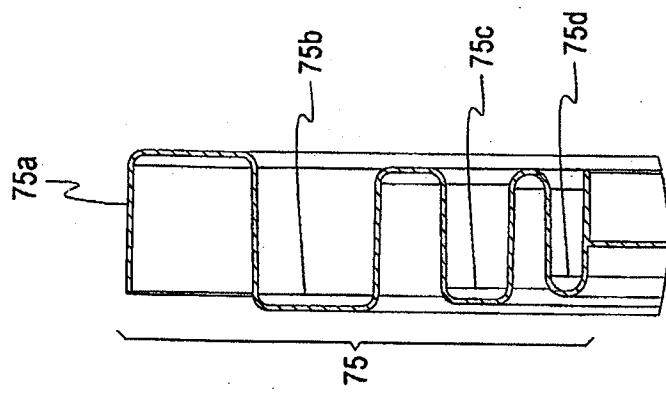


FIG. 11

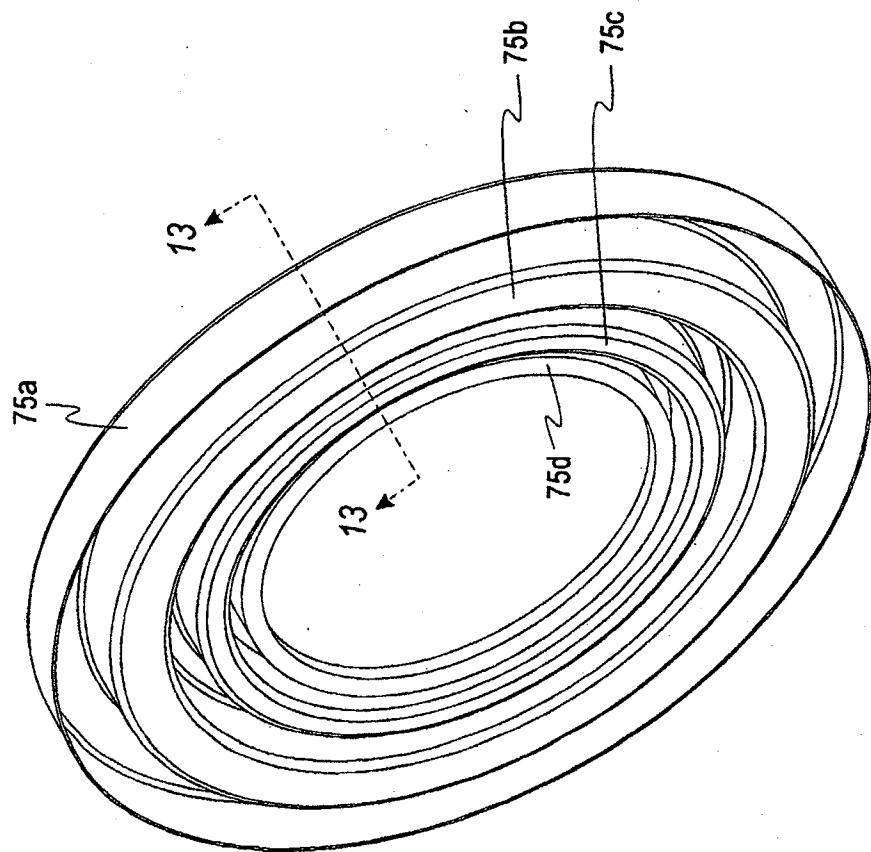


FIG. 10

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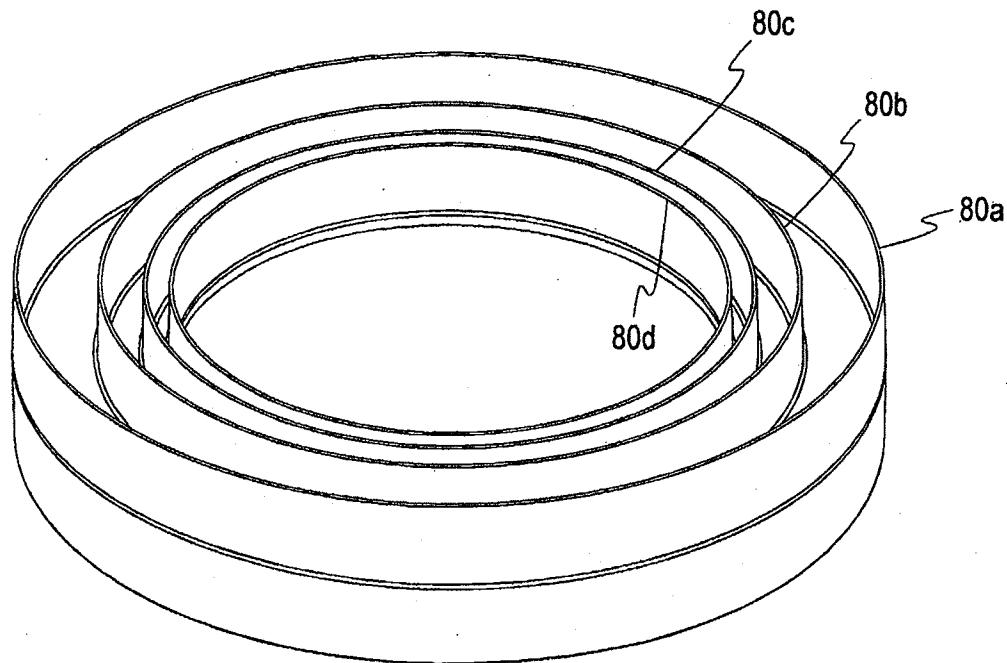
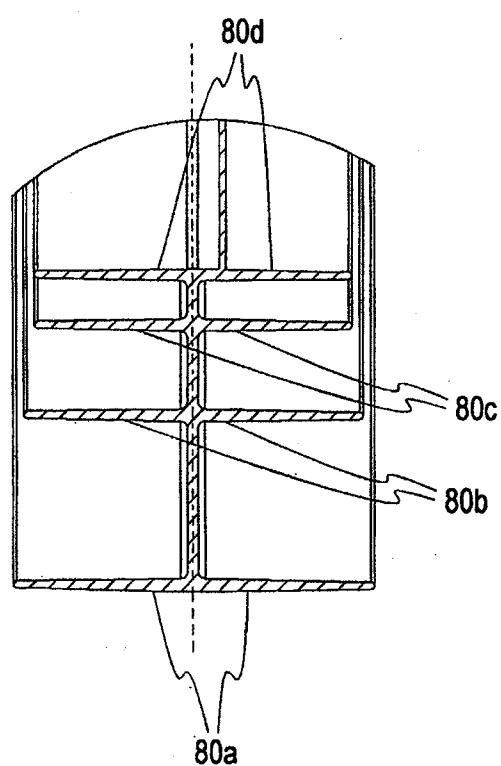


FIG. 12



EIC 12

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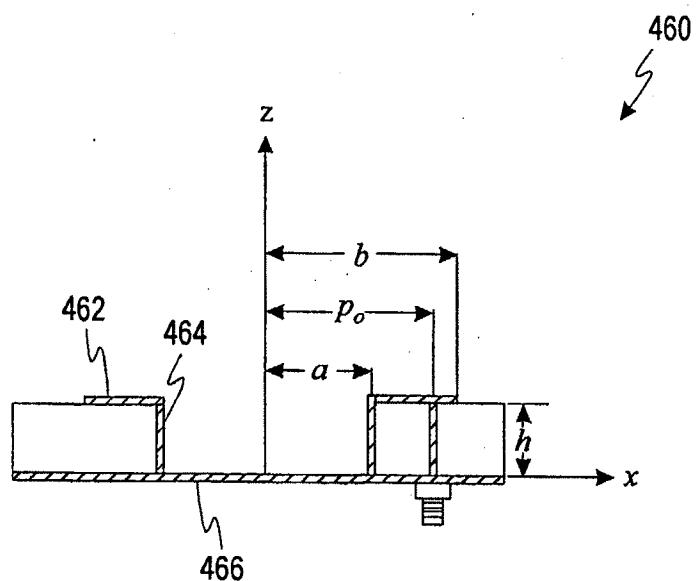


FIG. 14

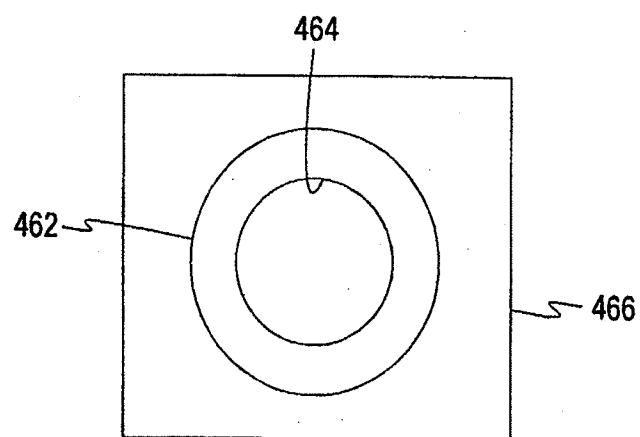
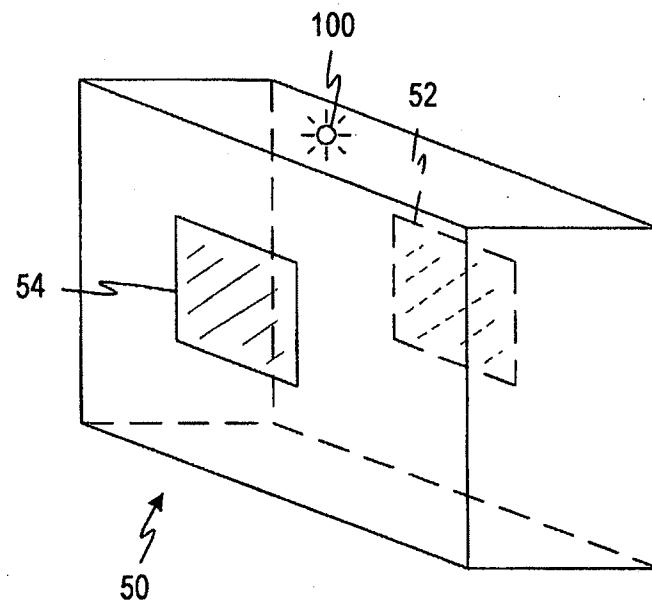
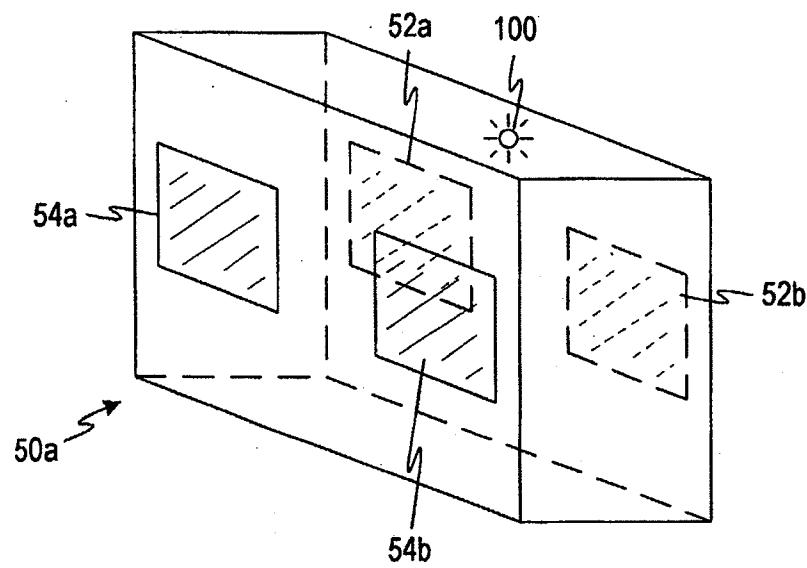


FIG. 15

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FIG. 16FIG. 17

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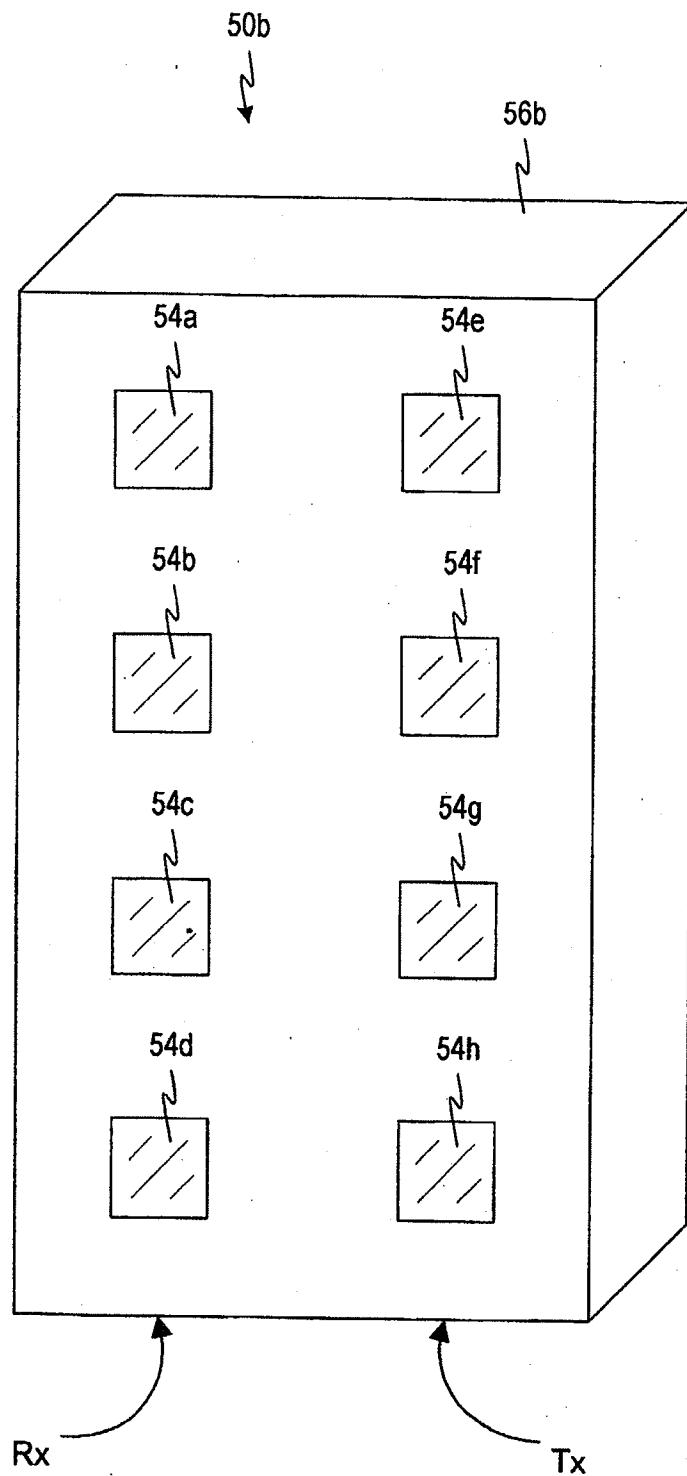


FIG. 18

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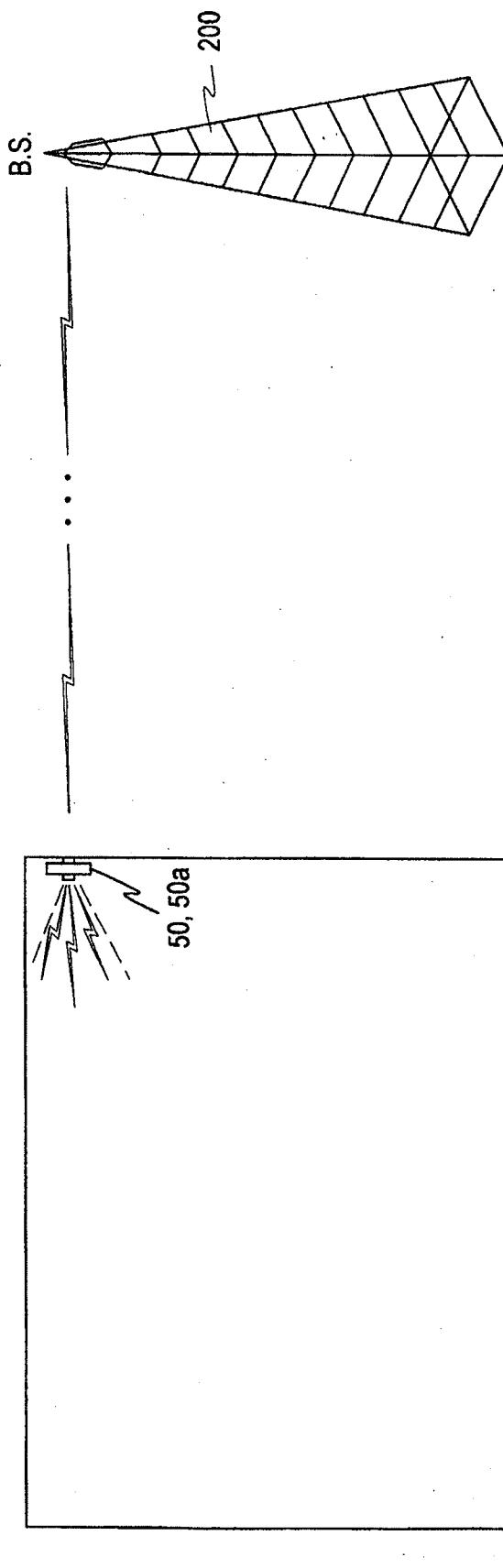
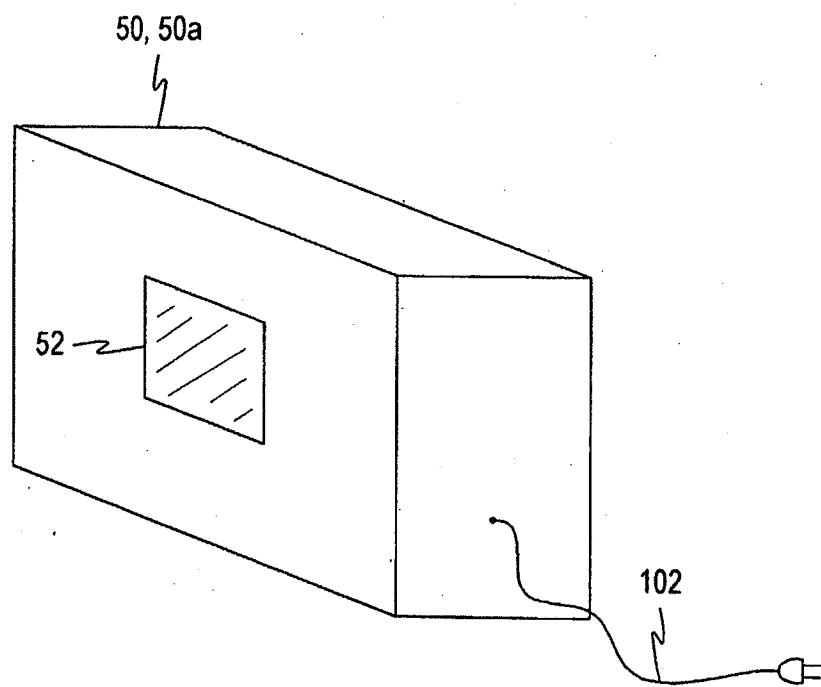
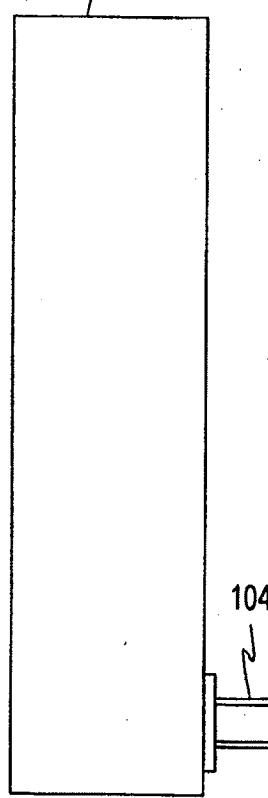


FIG. 19

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50, 50a

FIG. 20

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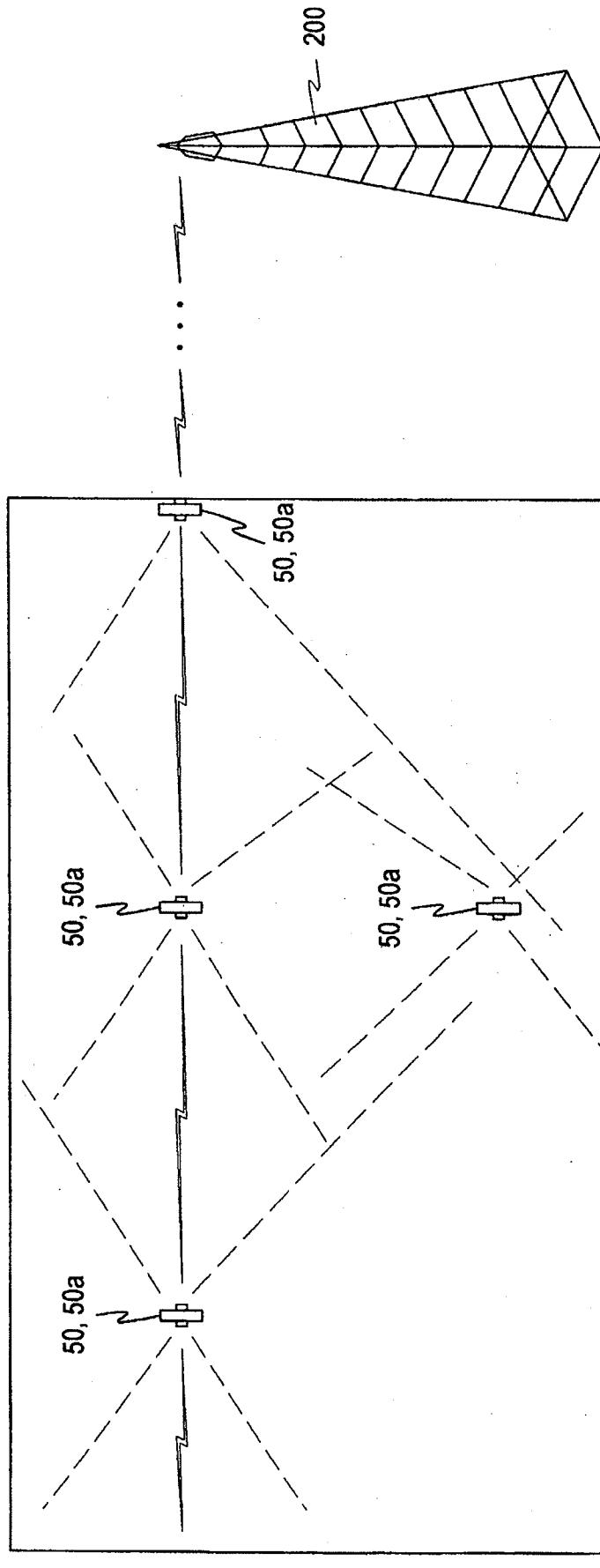


FIG. 22

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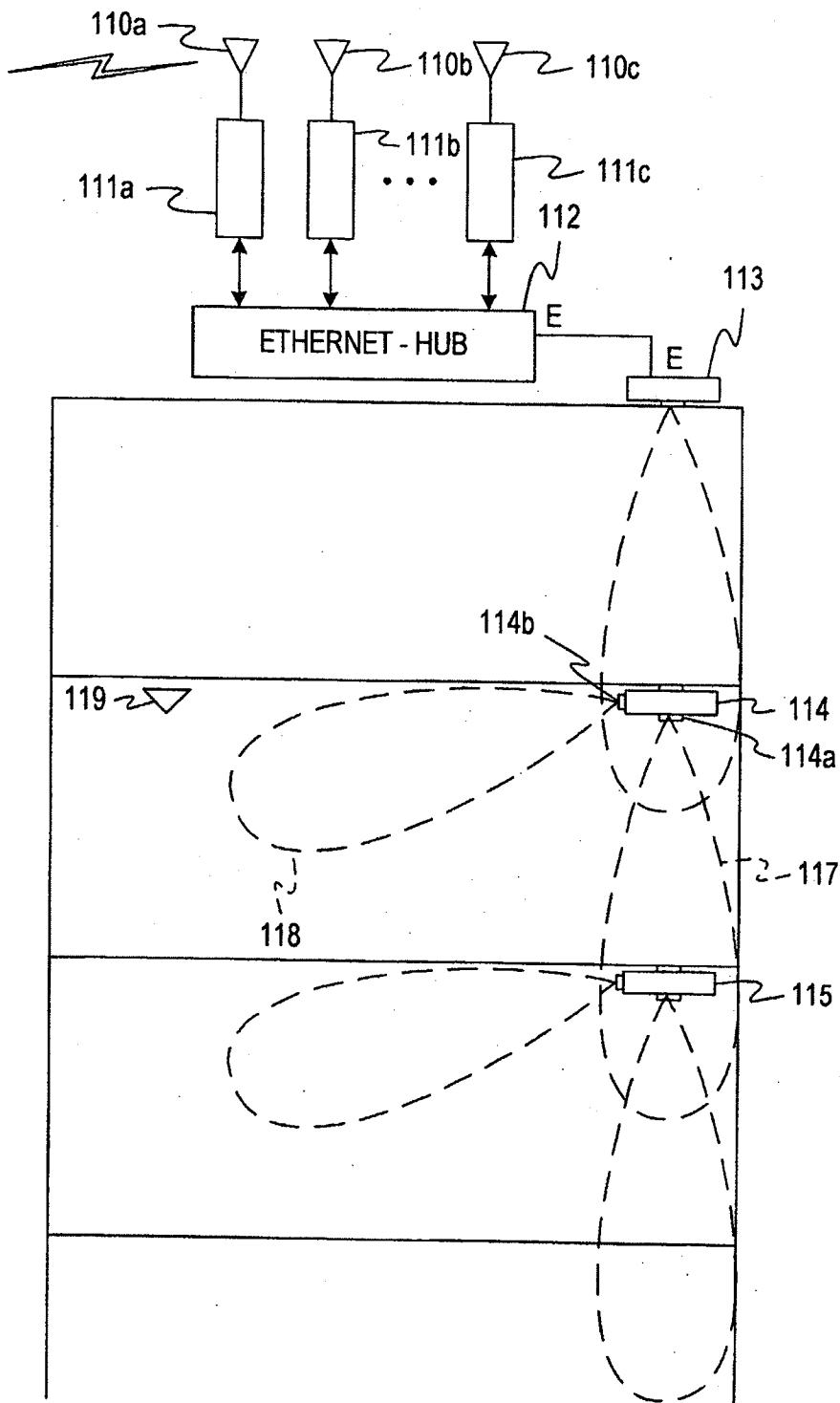
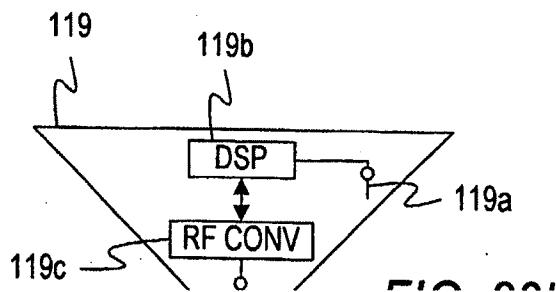
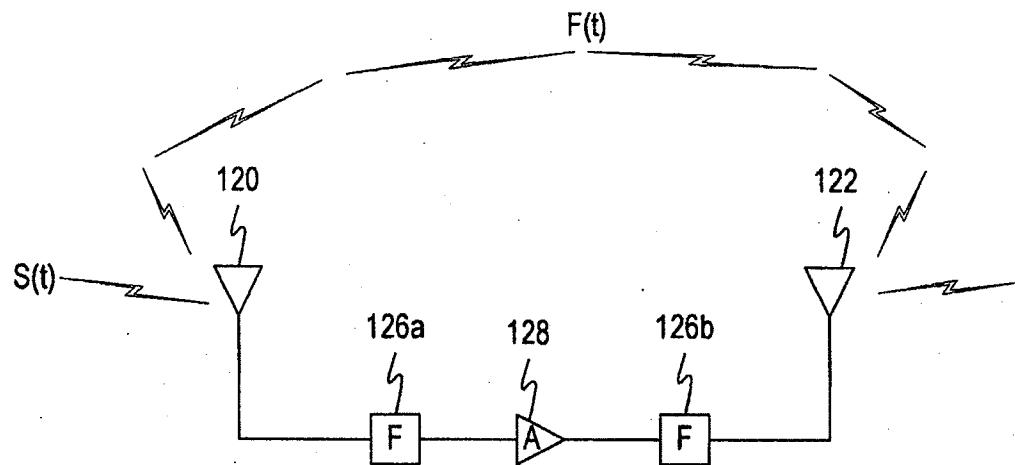
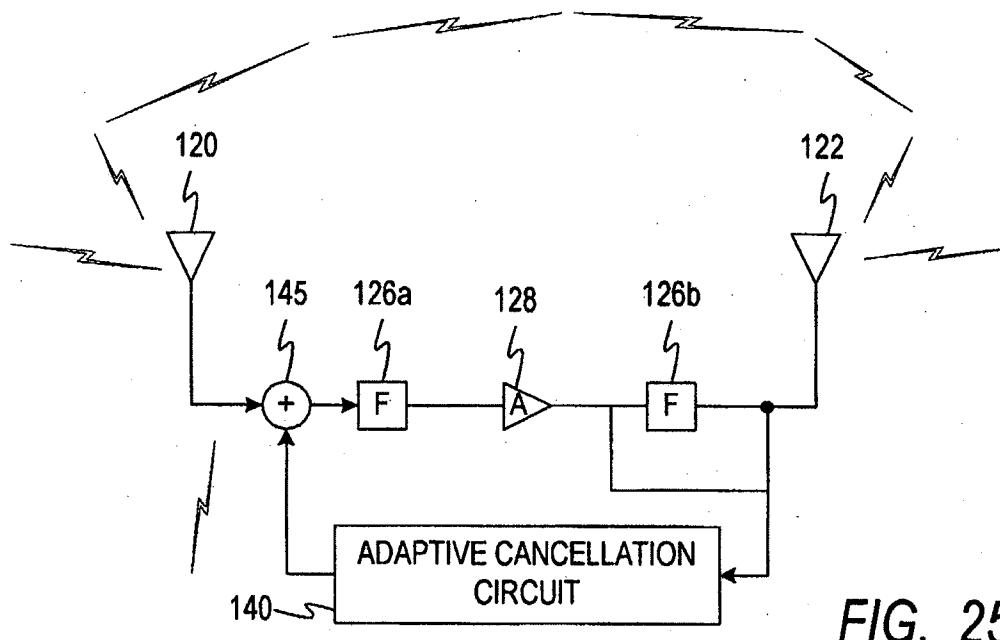
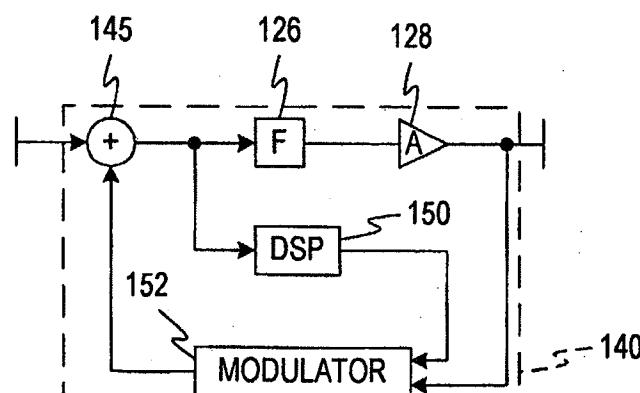


FIG. 23a



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FIG. 24FIG. 25

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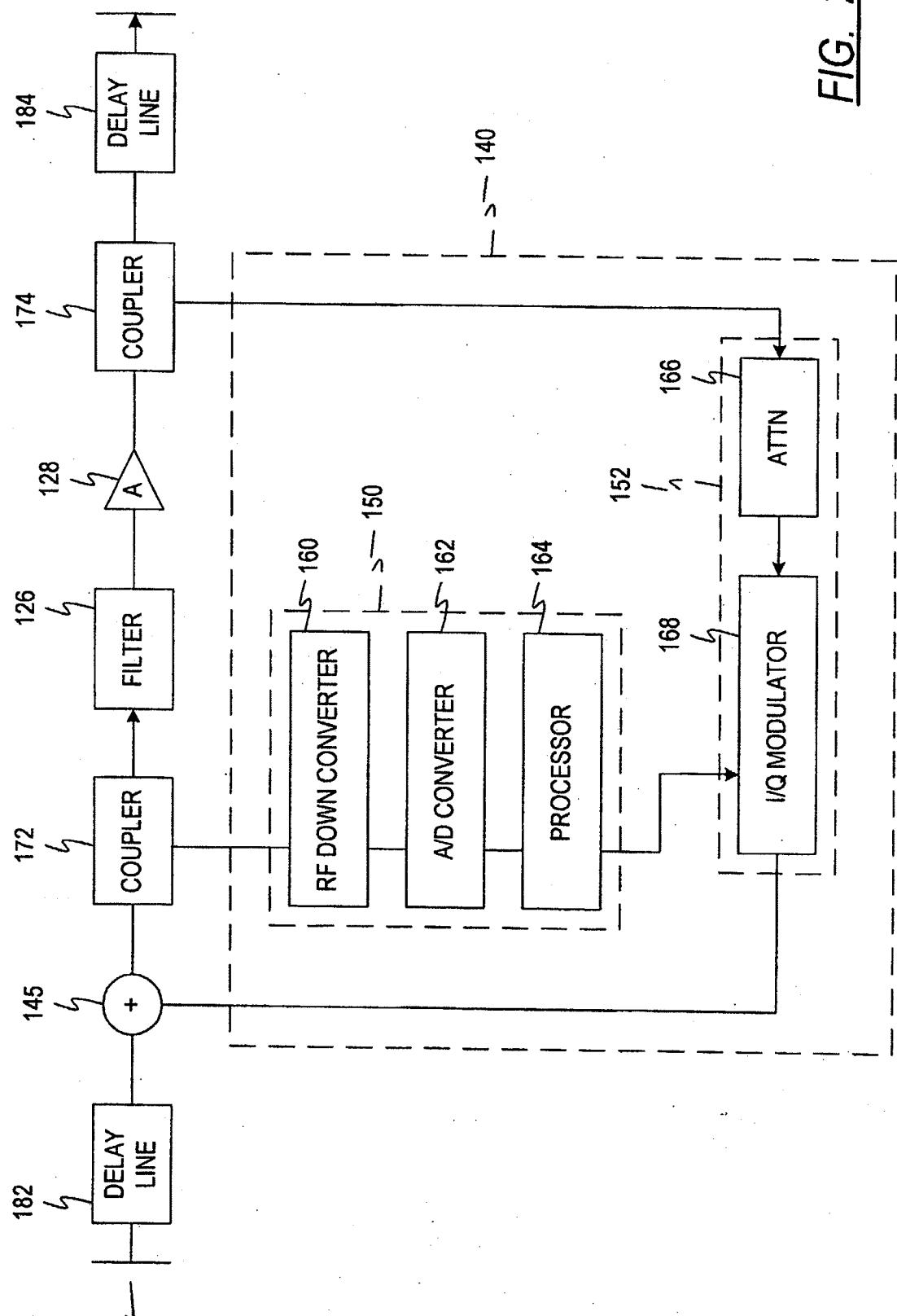


FIG. 27

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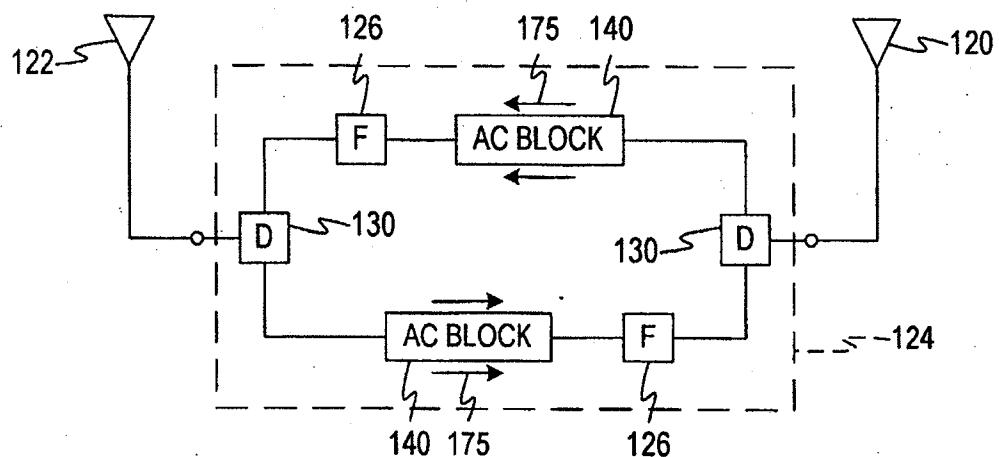


FIG. 28

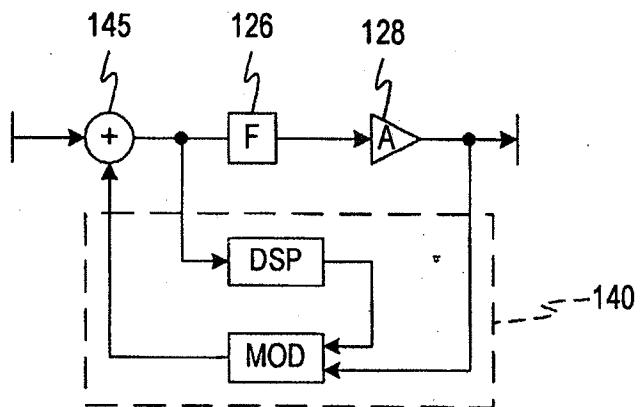


FIG. 29

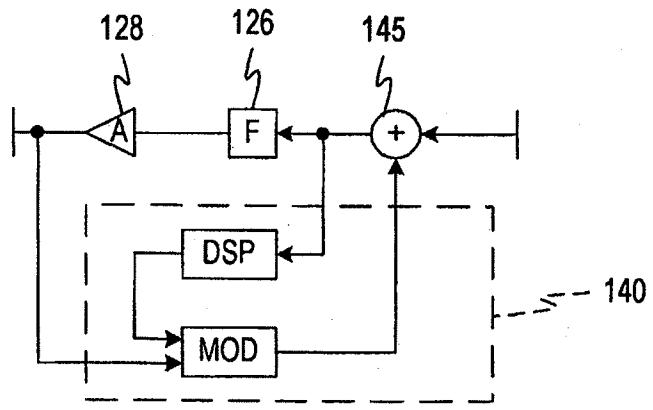
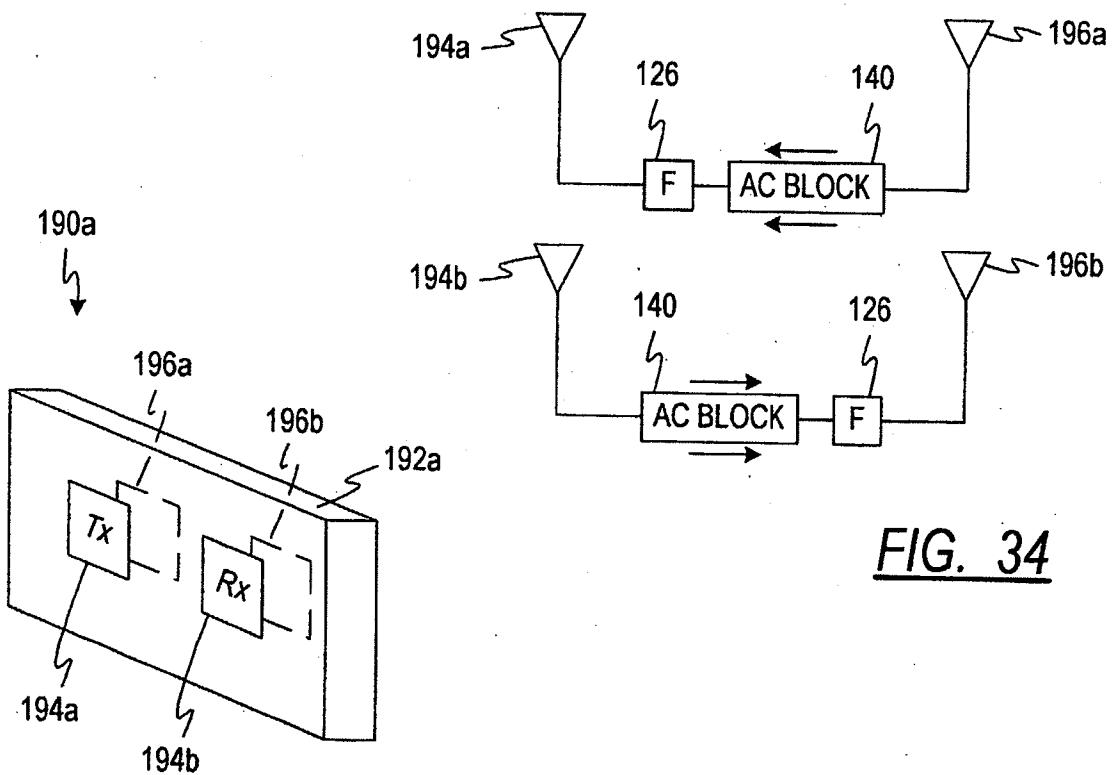
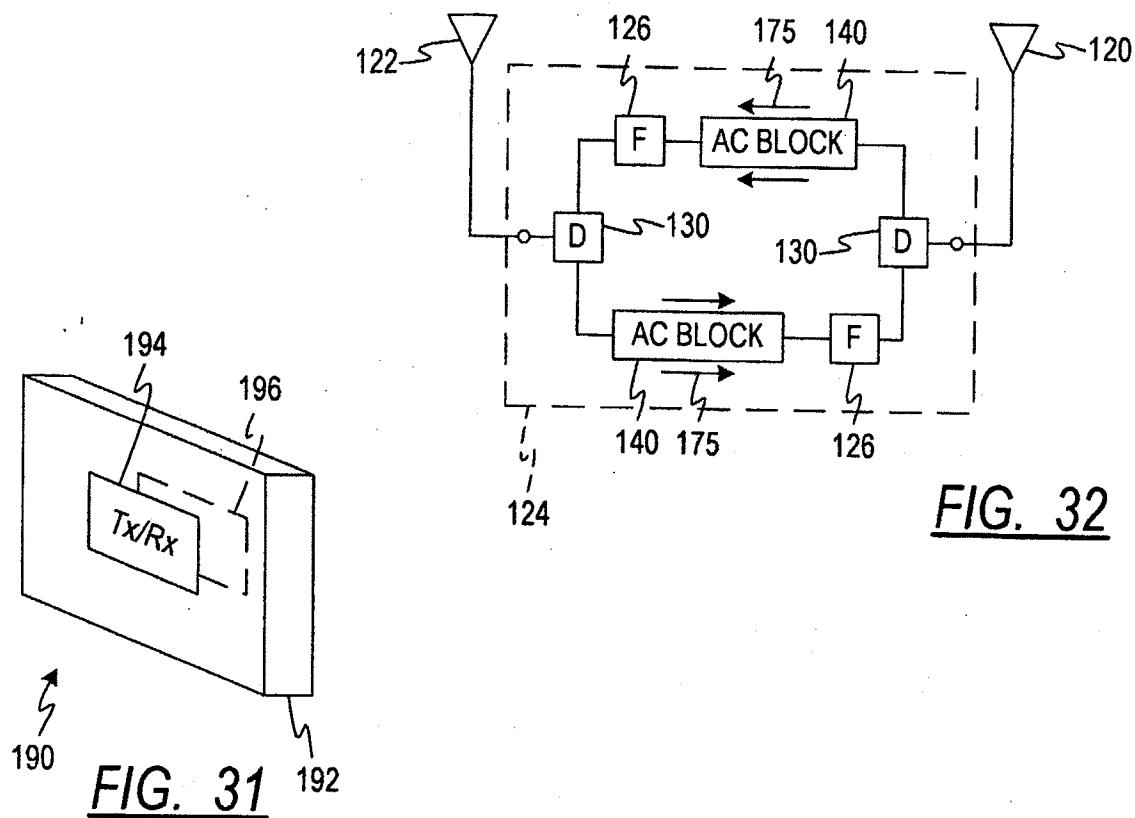


FIG. 20

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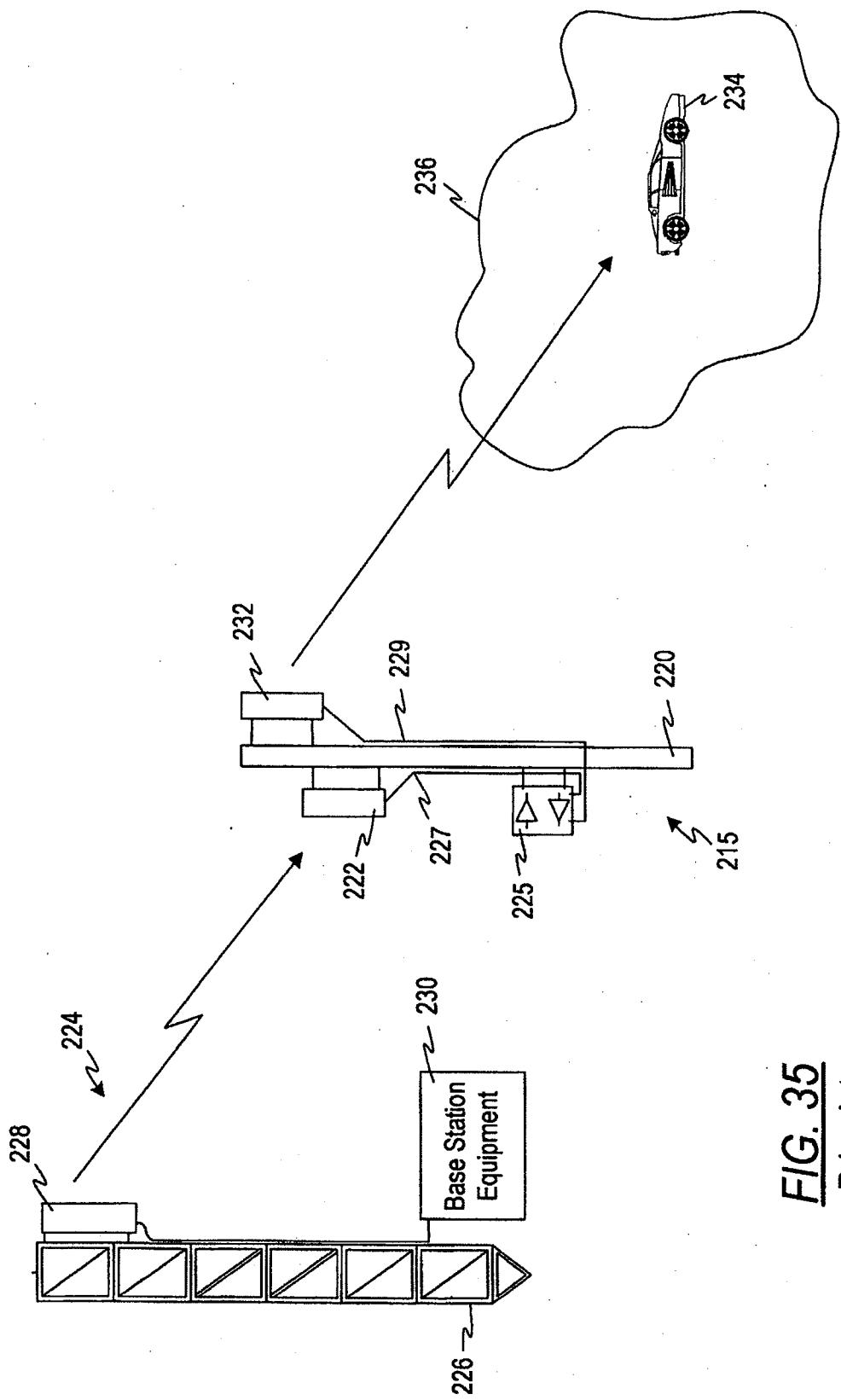
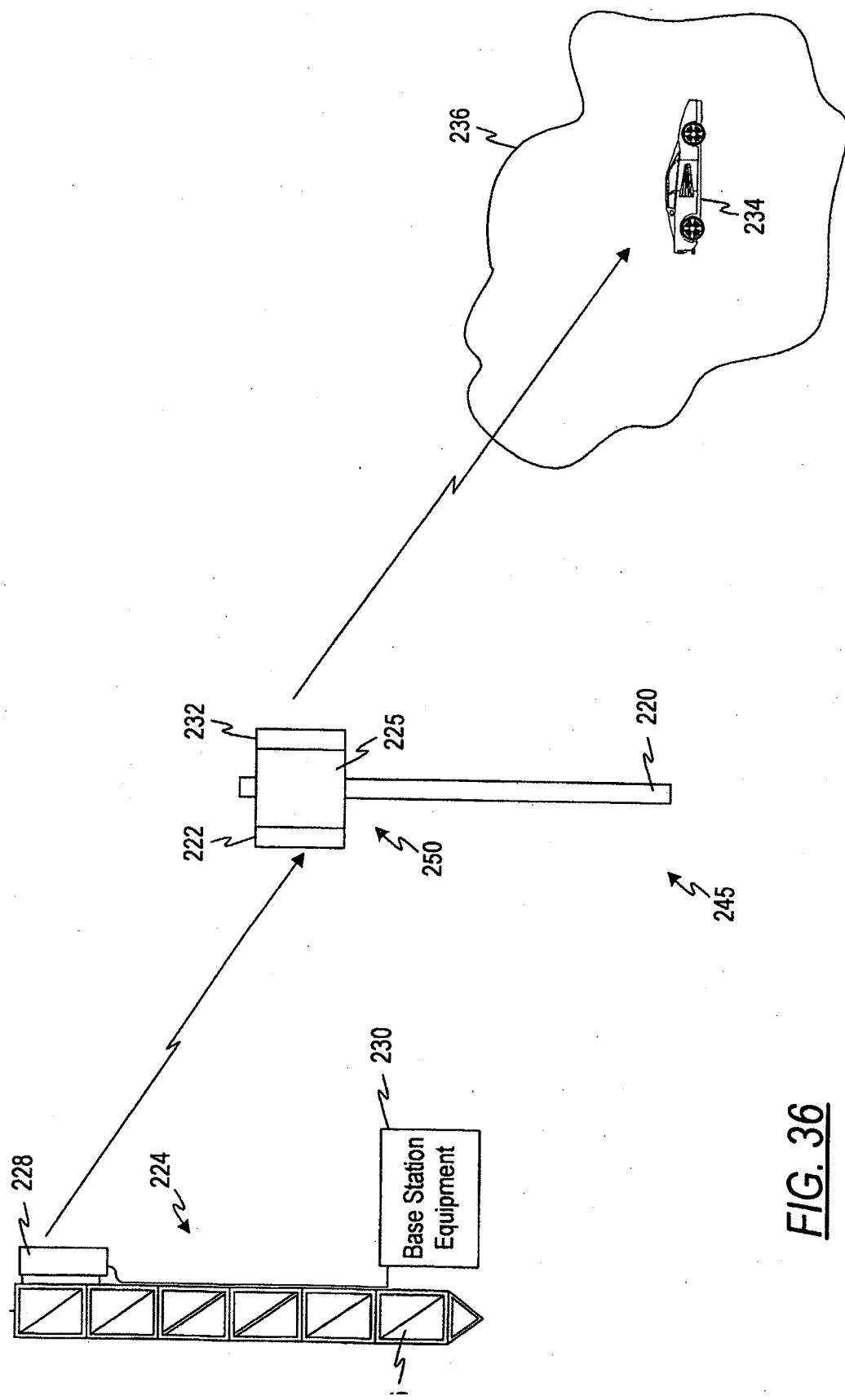


FIG. 35
Prior Art

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FIG. 36

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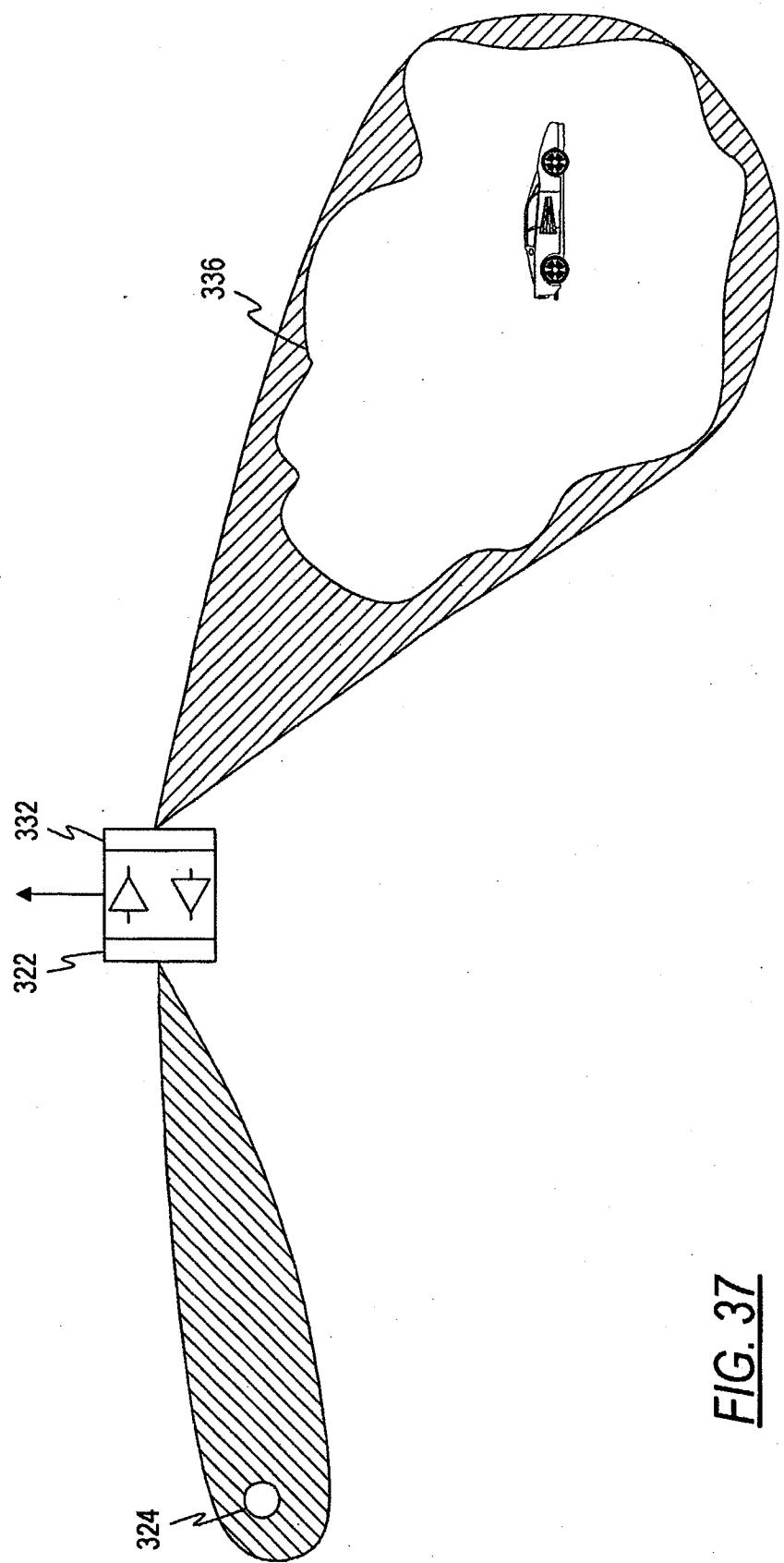


FIG. 37

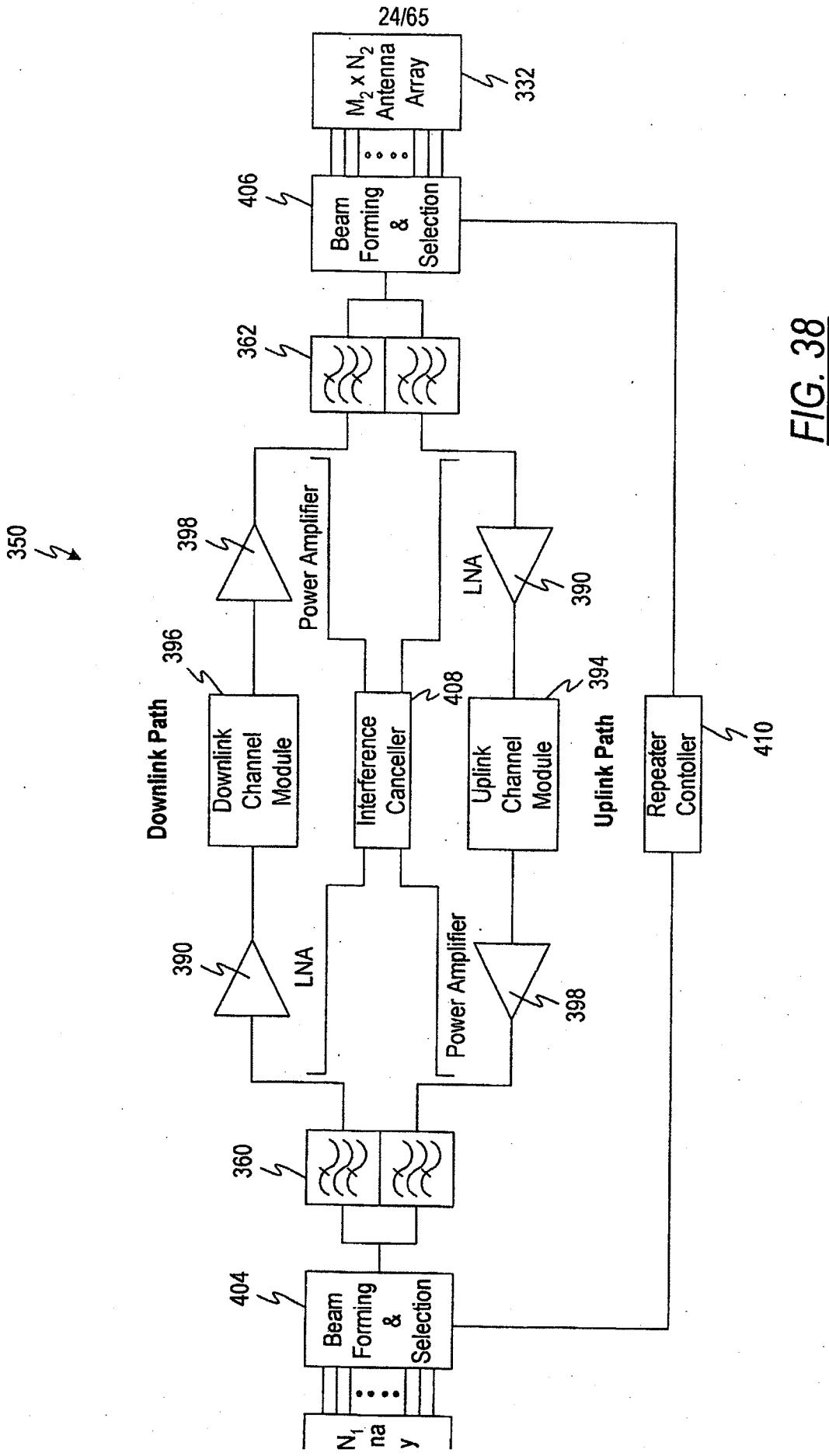


FIG. 38

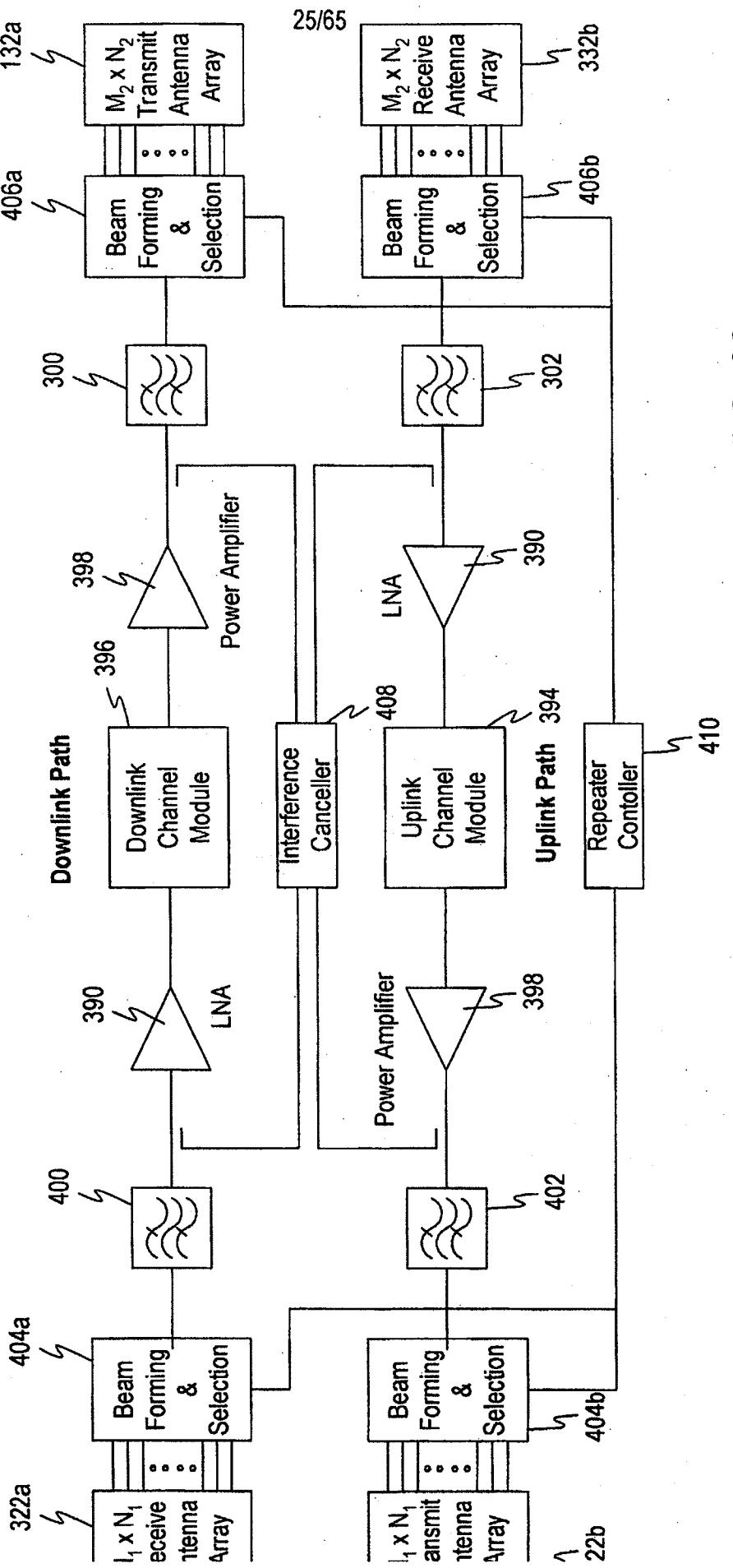


FIG. 39

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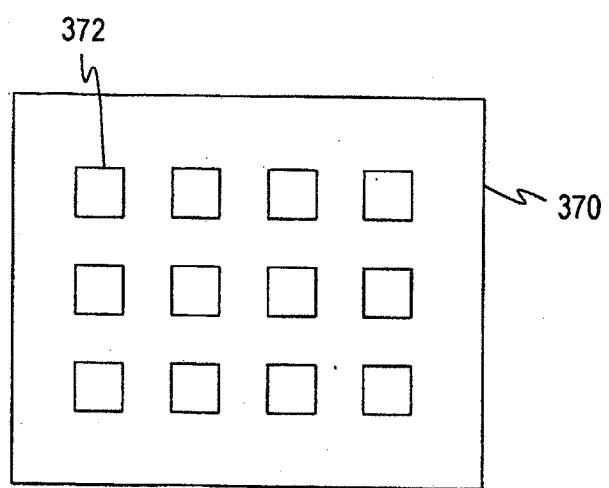


FIG. 40

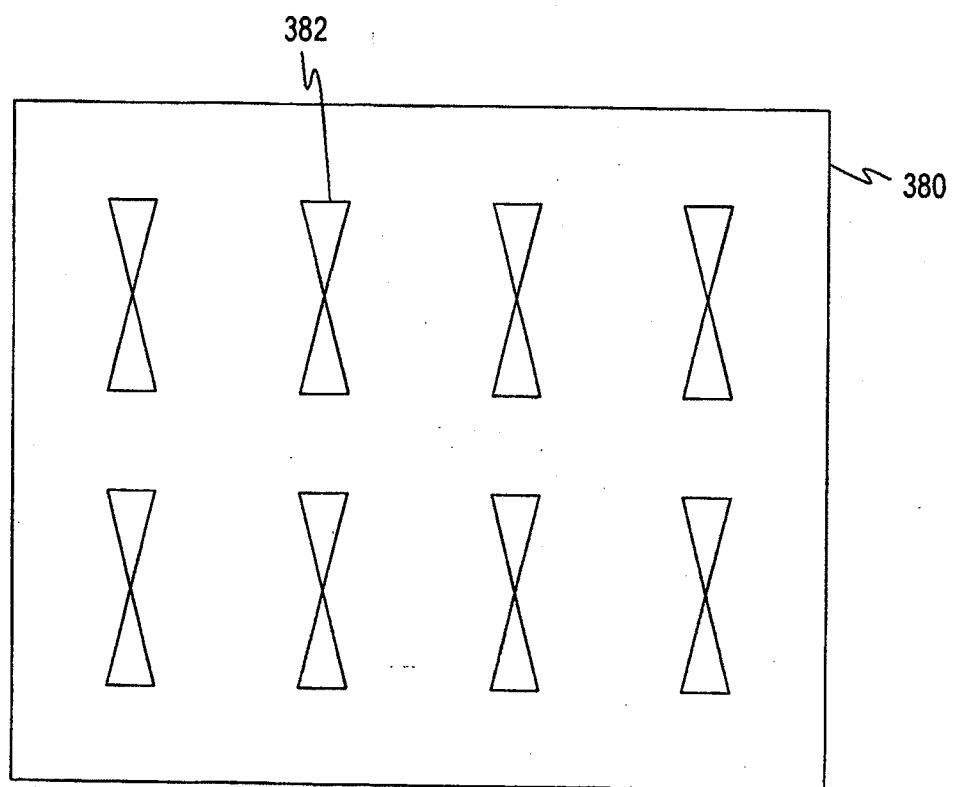


FIG. 41

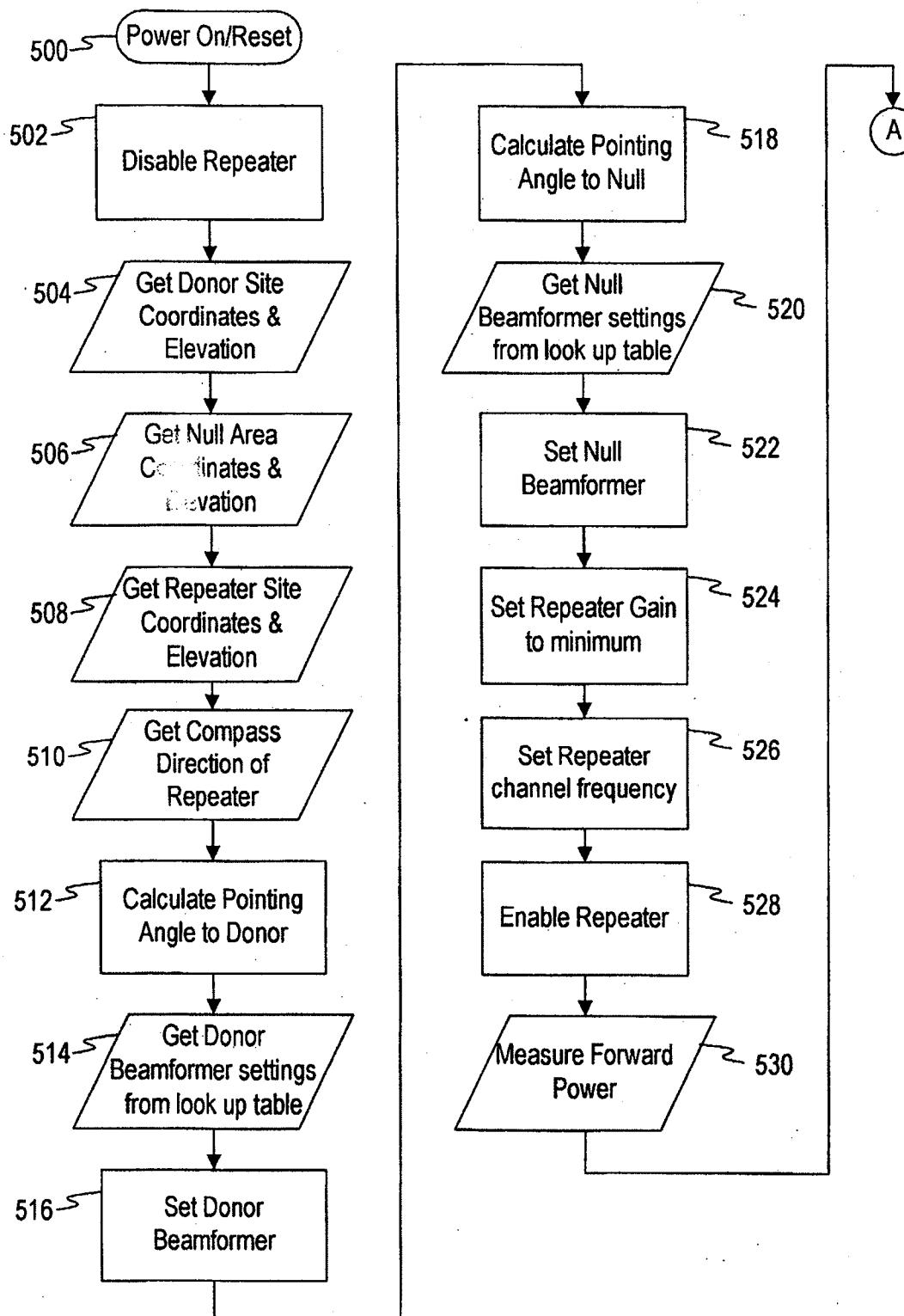


FIG. 42

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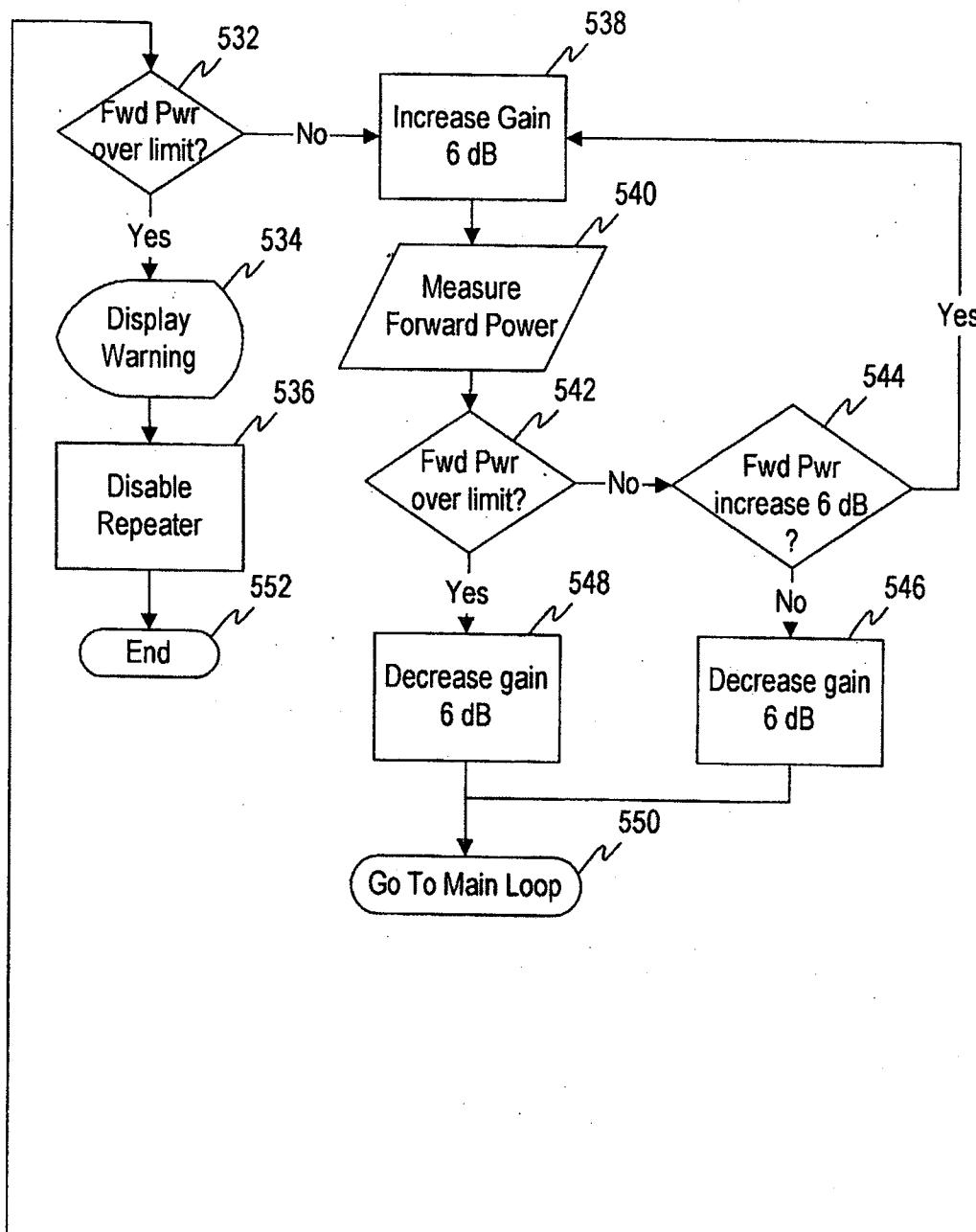


FIG. 43

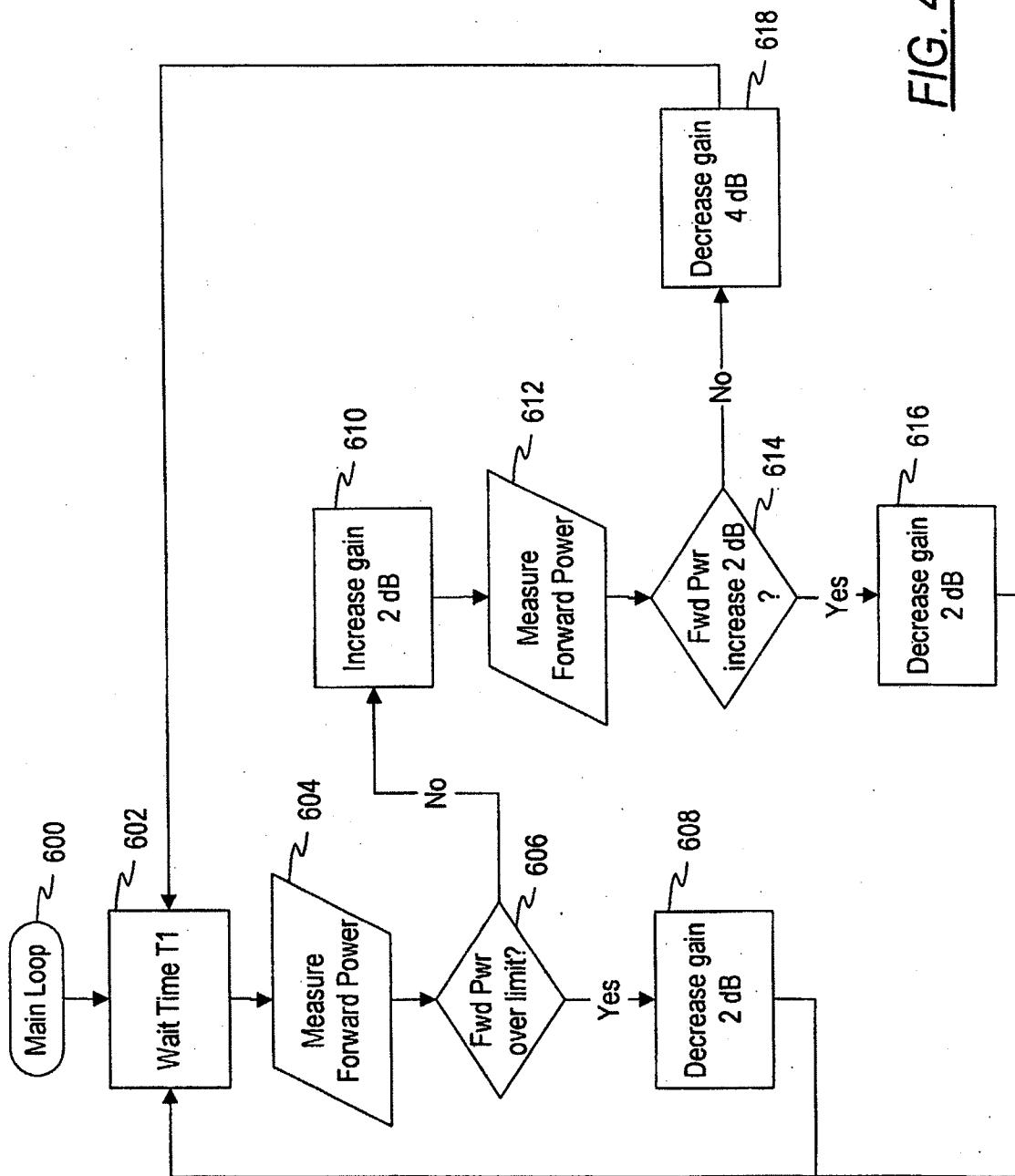


FIG. 44

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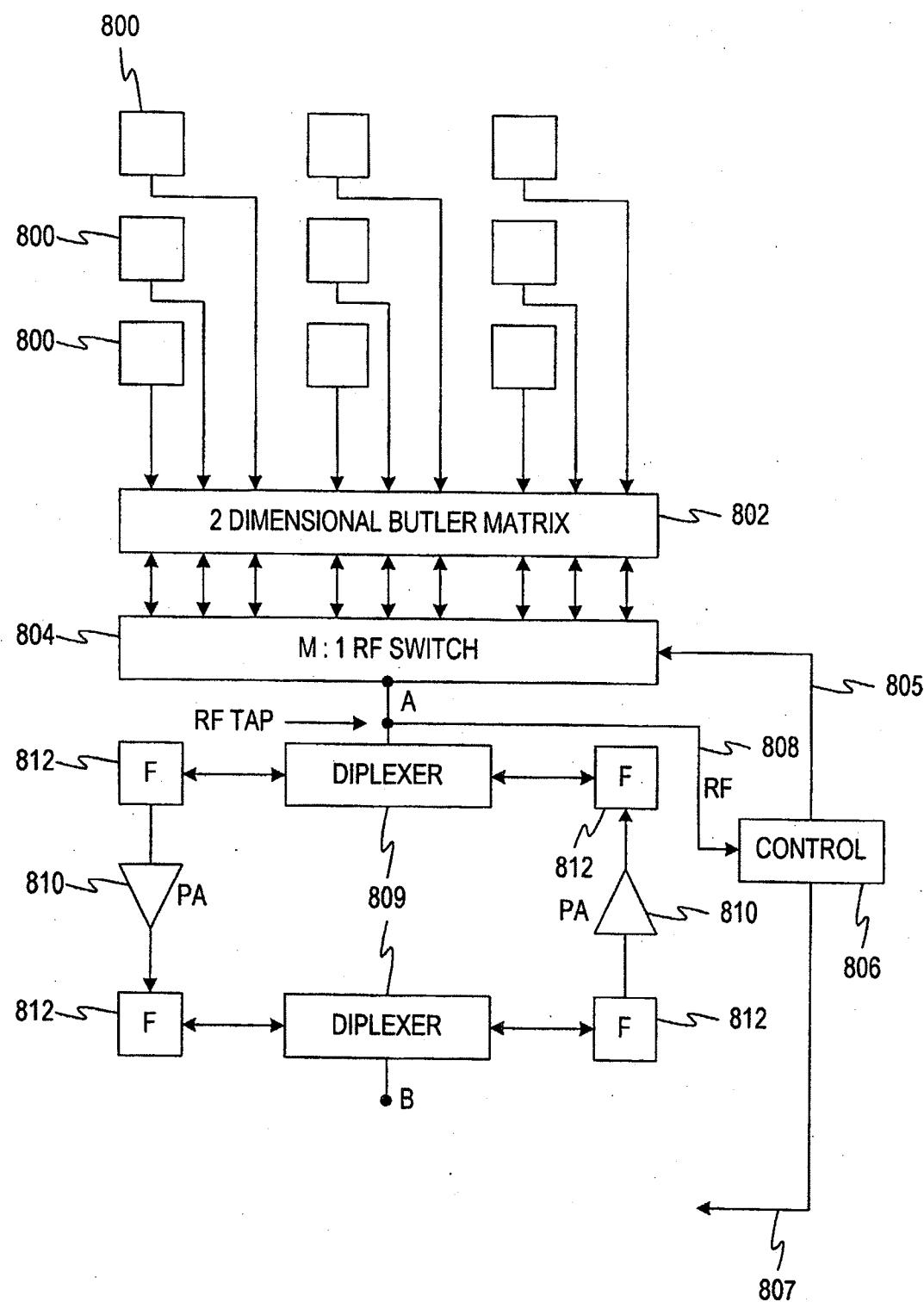
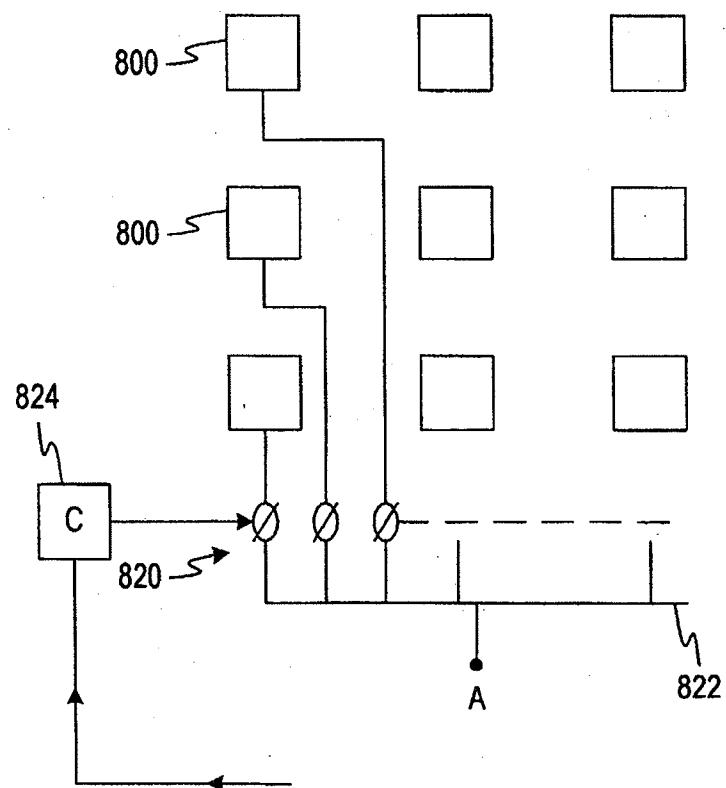


FIG. 45

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FIG. 46

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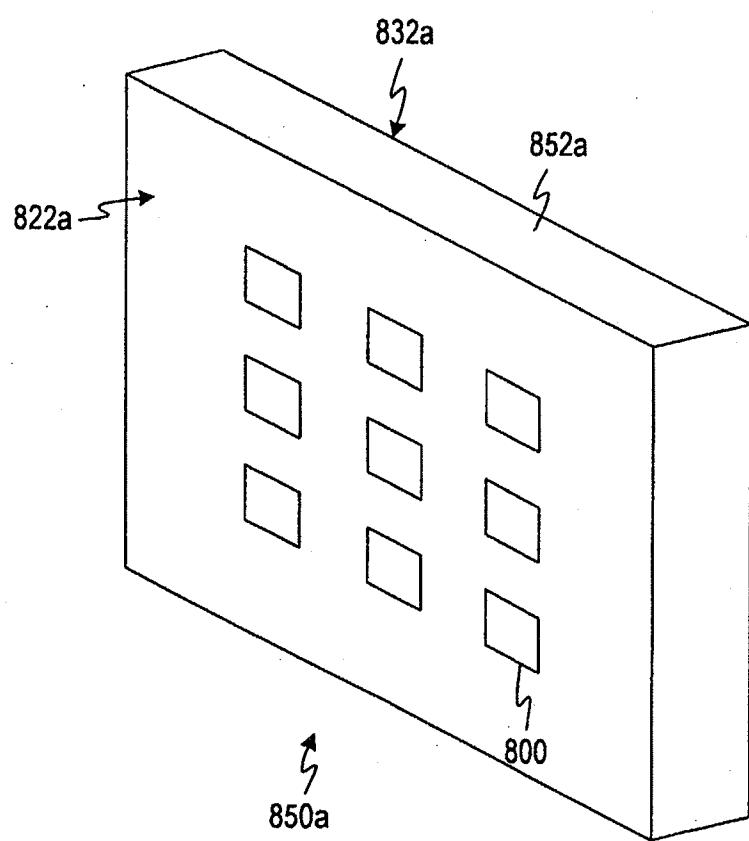


FIG. 47

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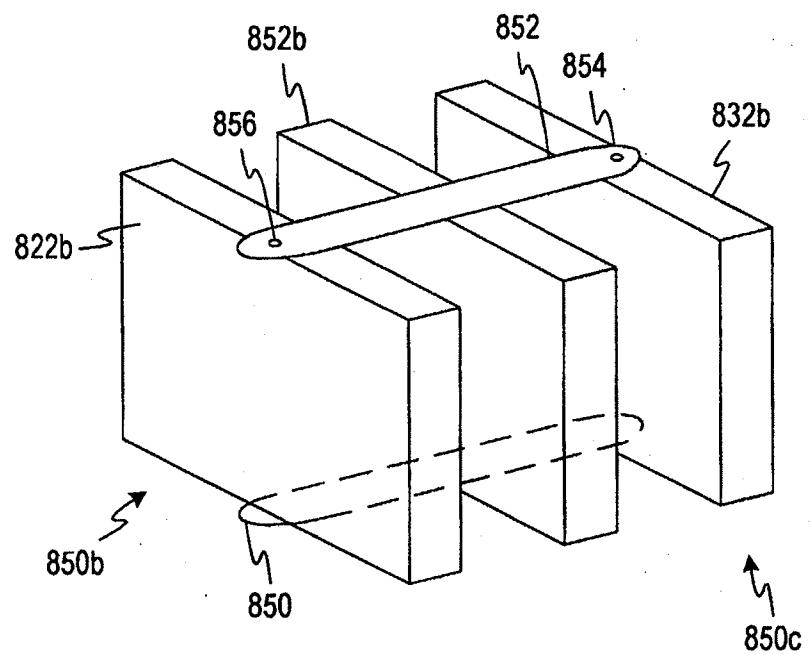
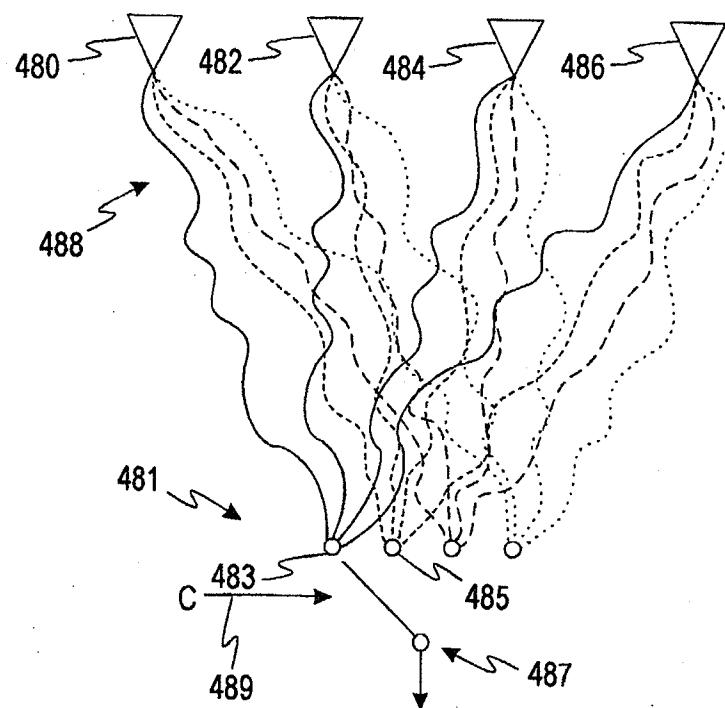
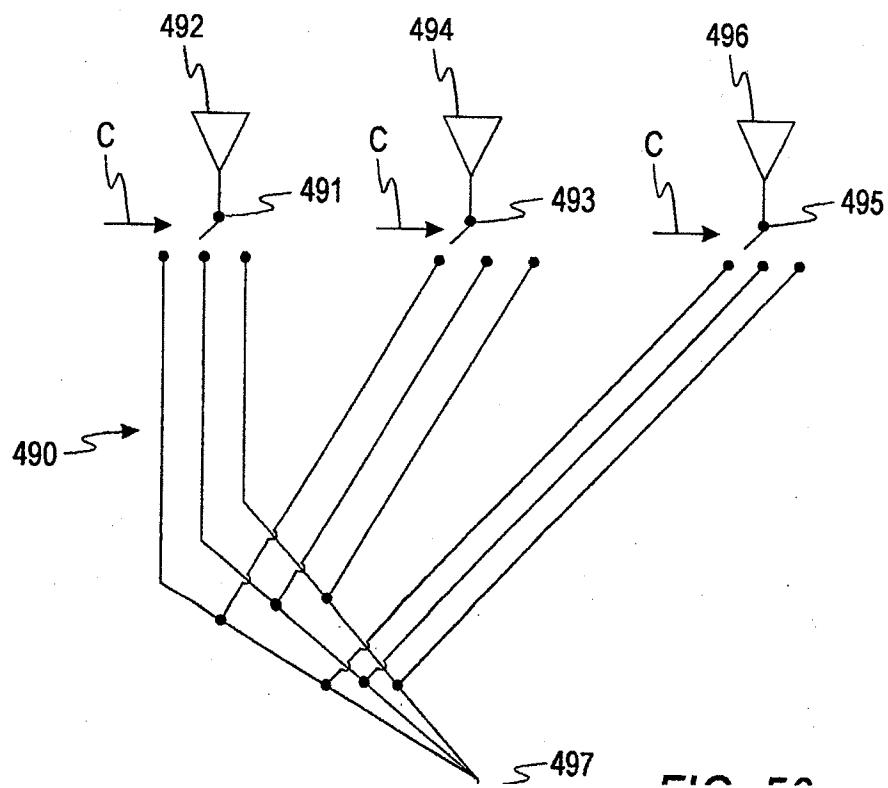


FIG. 48

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FIG. 49FIG. 50

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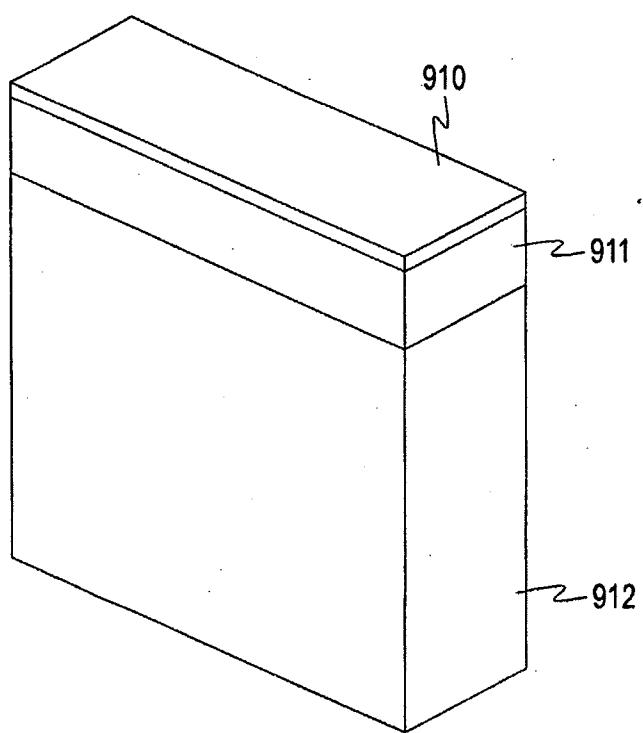
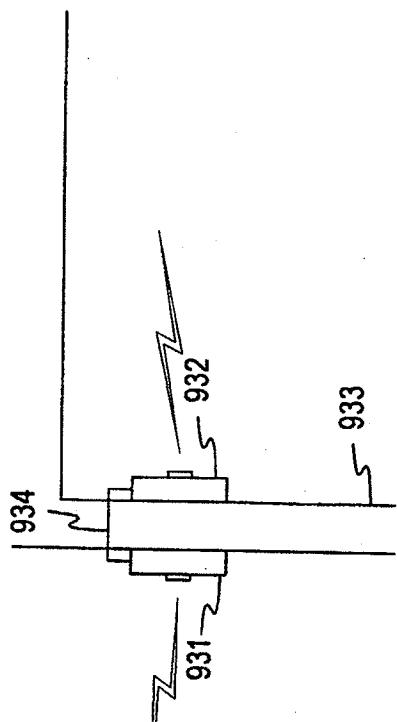
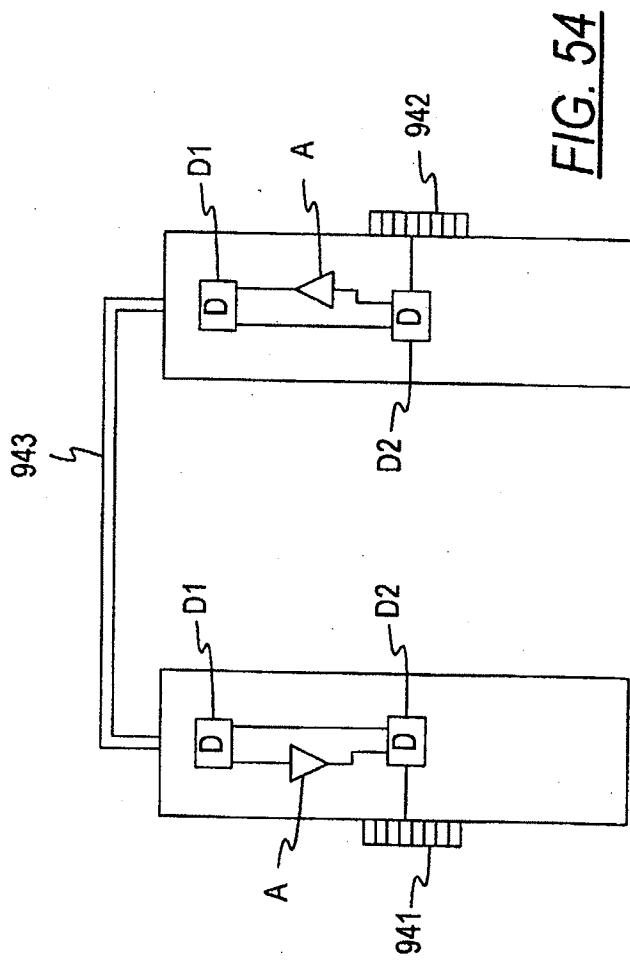
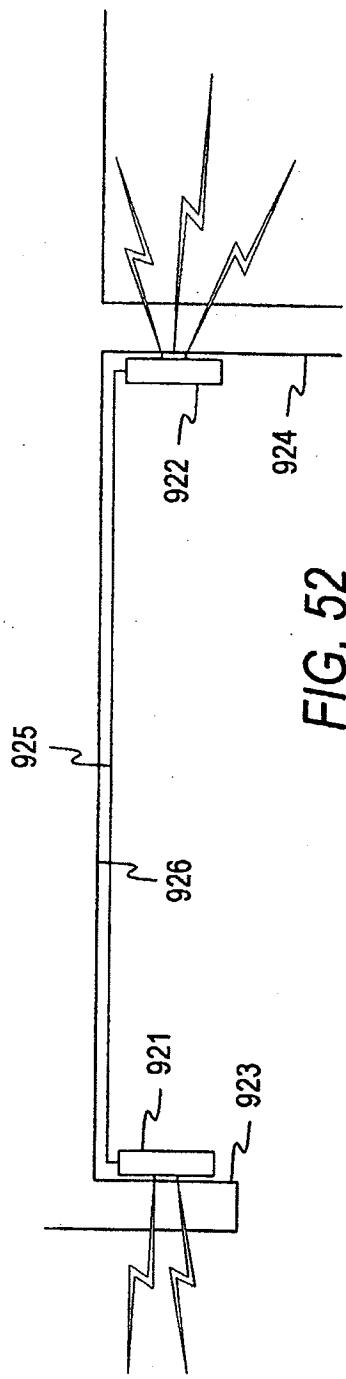
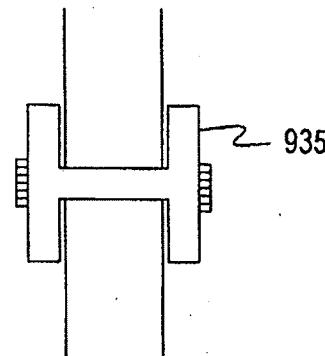
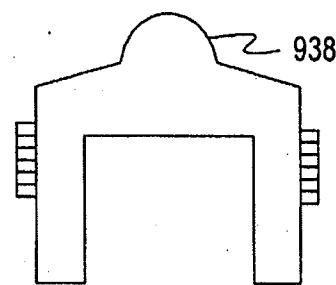
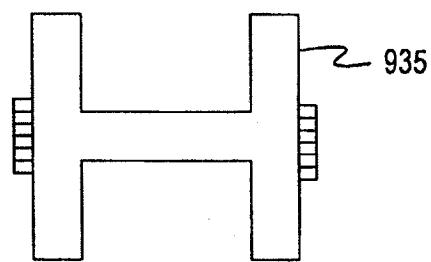
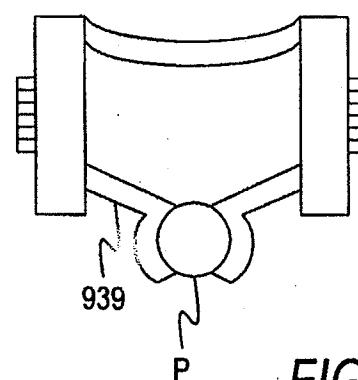
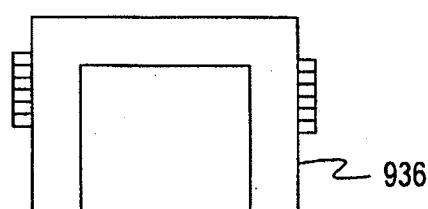
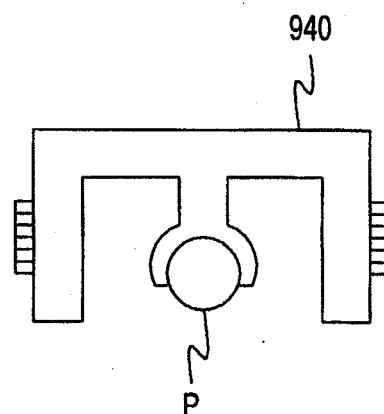
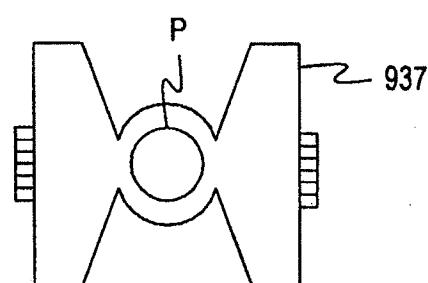


FIG. 51

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FIG. 53aFIG. 53eFIG. 53bFIG. 53fFIG. 53cFIG. 53g

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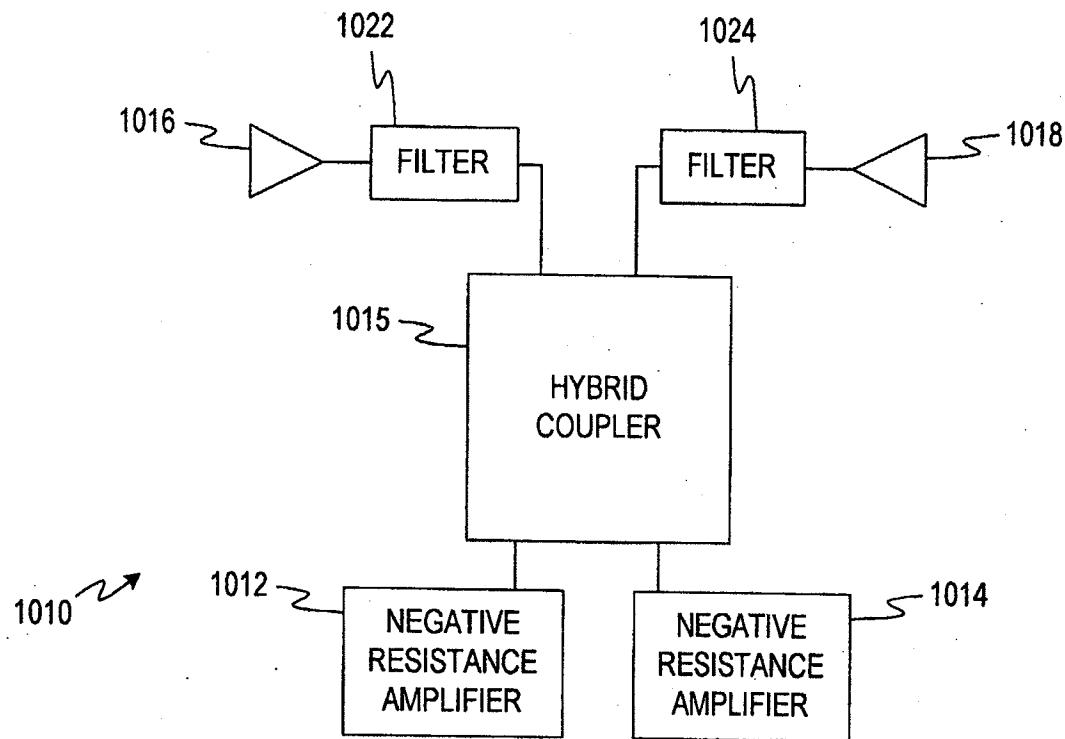
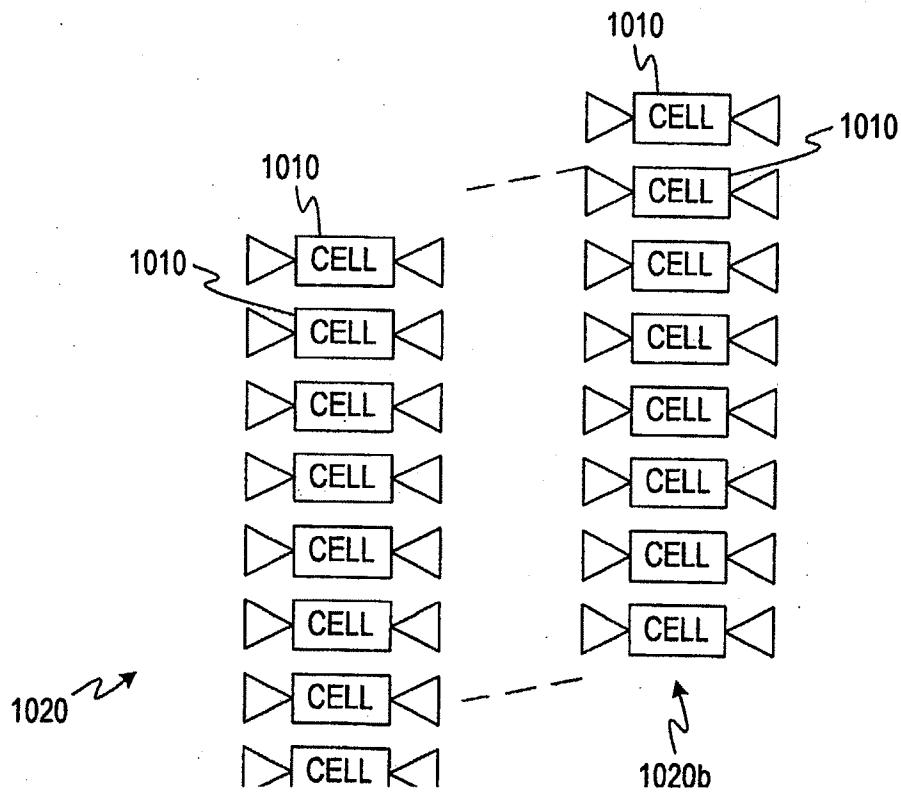


FIG. 55



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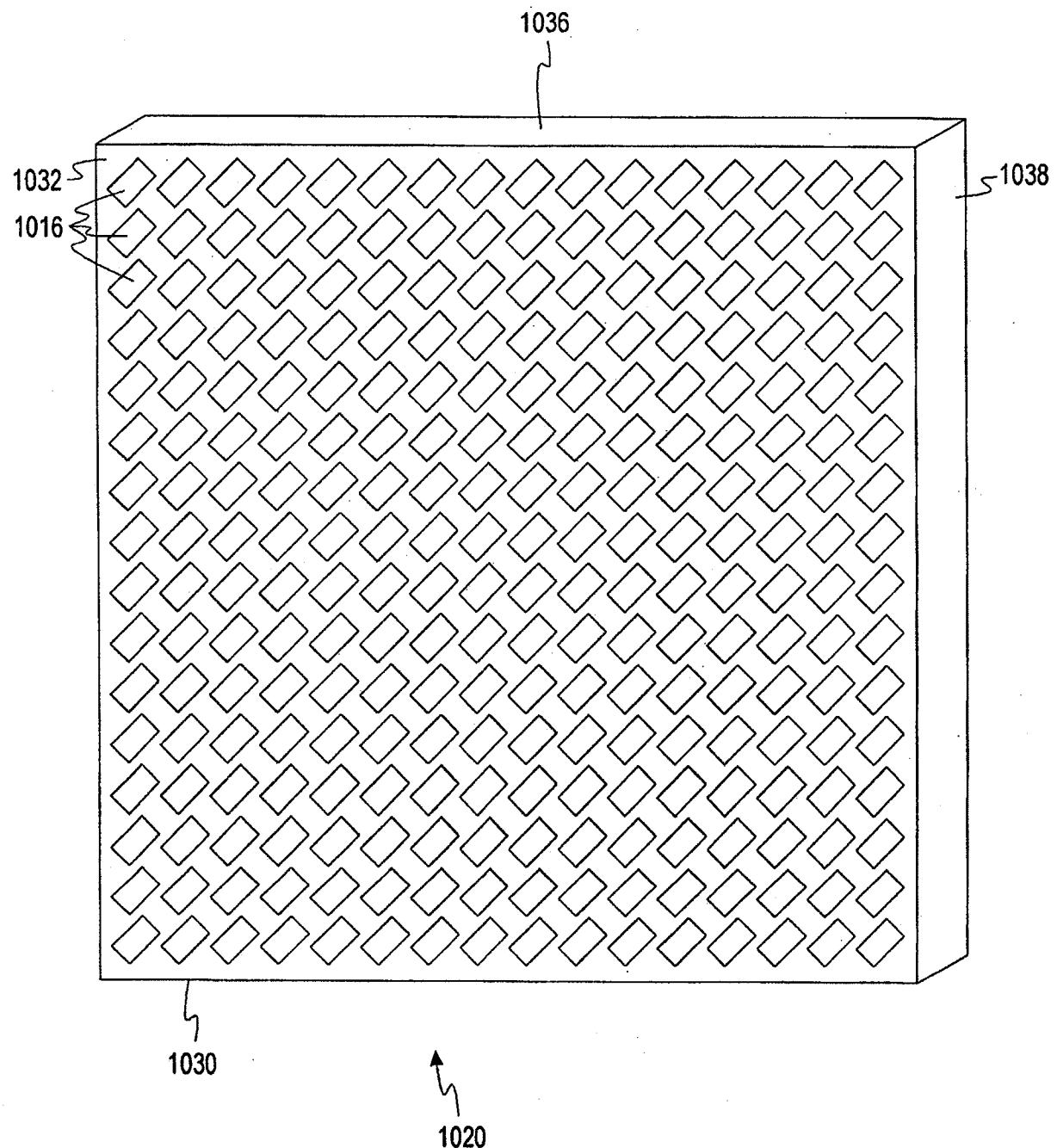


FIG. 57

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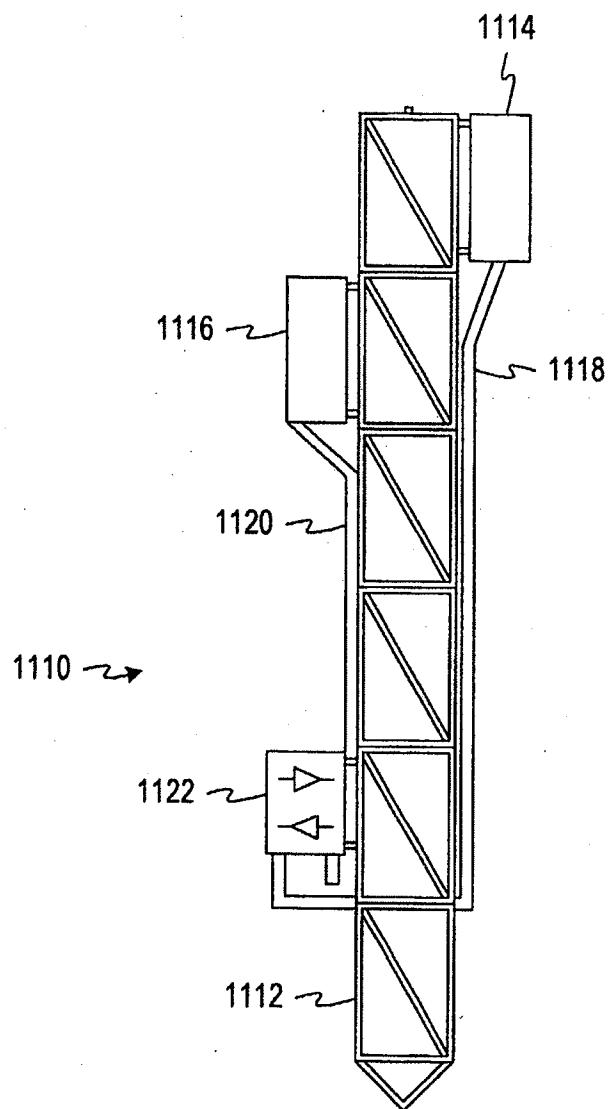


FIG. 58

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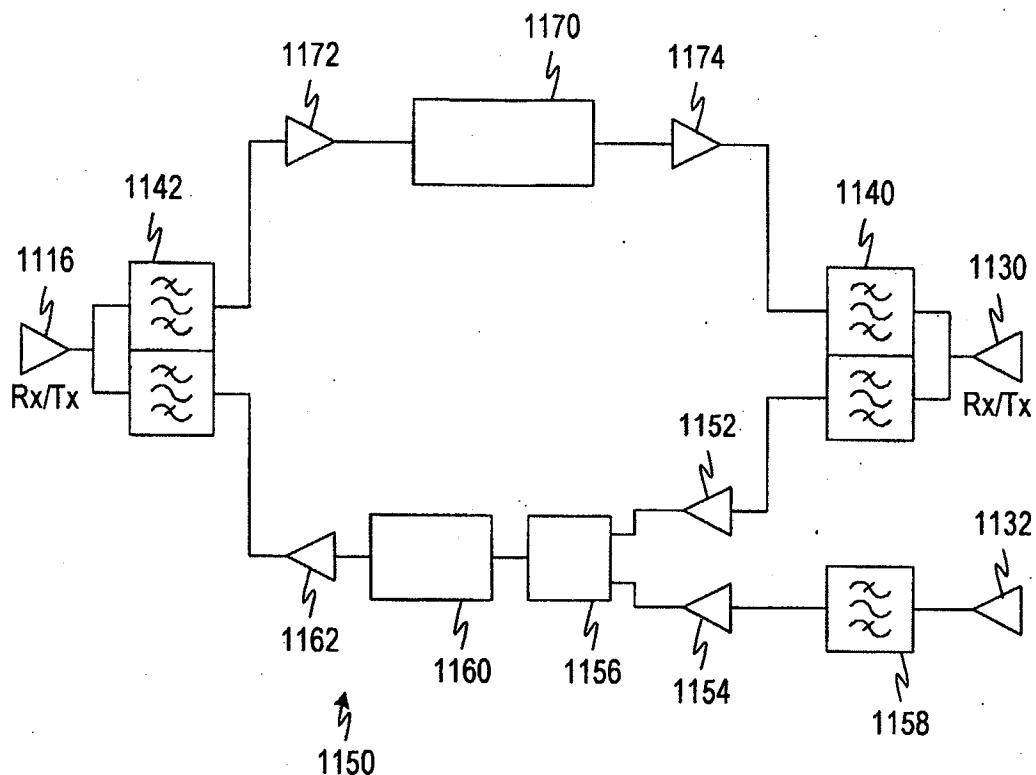
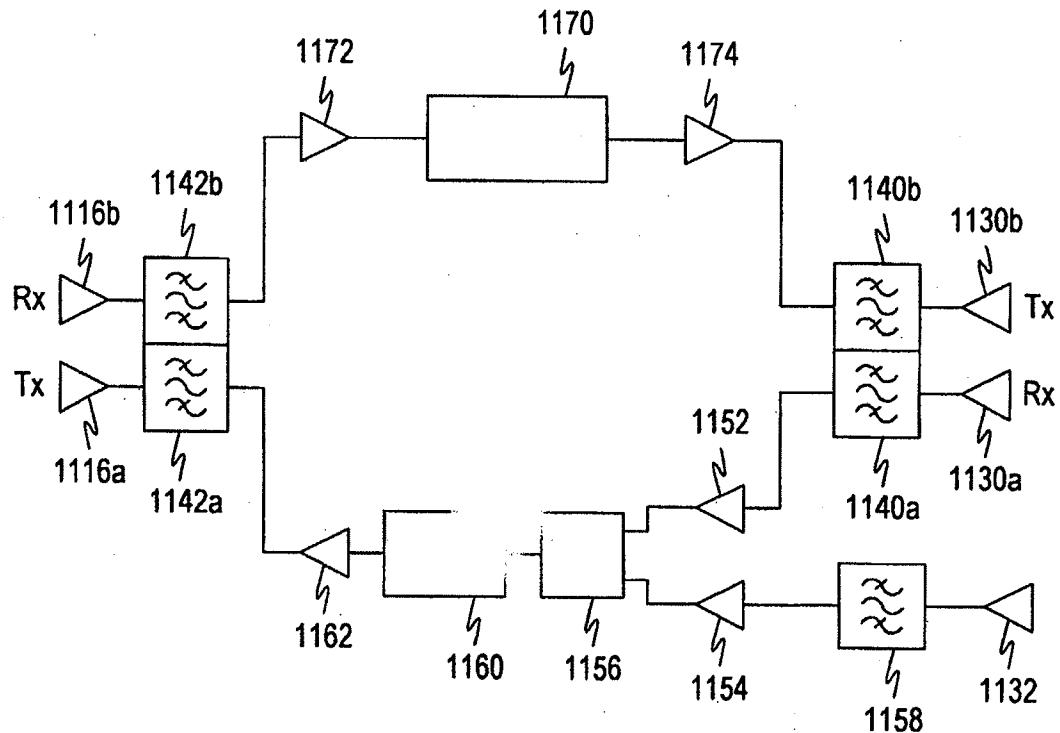


FIG. 59



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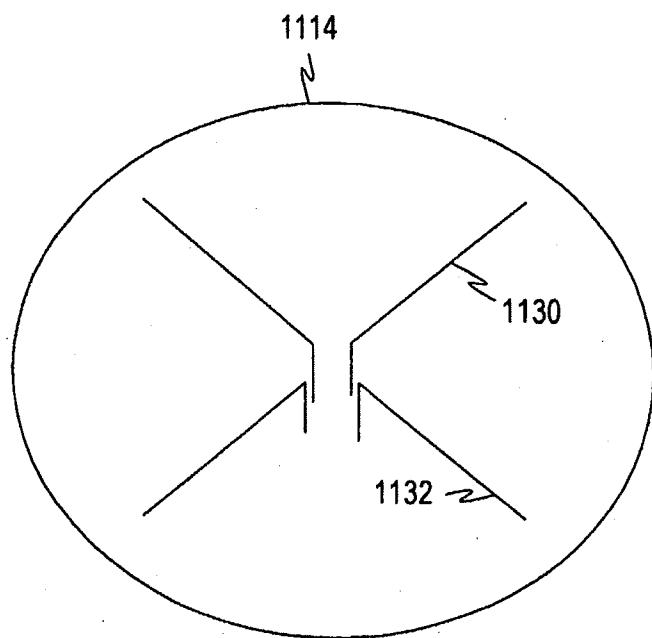


FIG. 61

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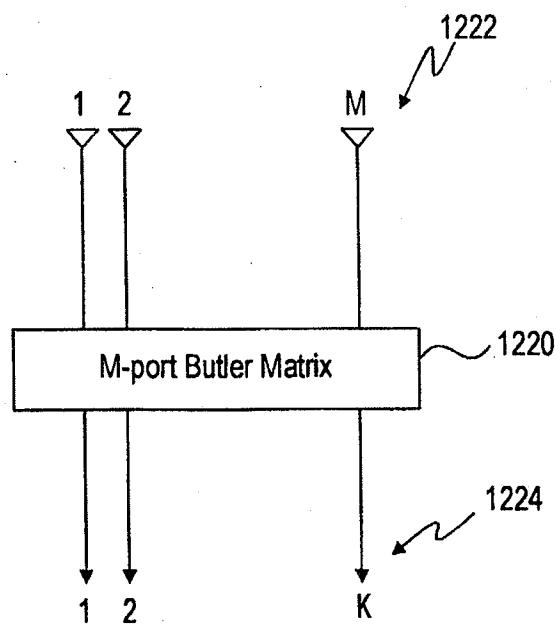


FIG. 62

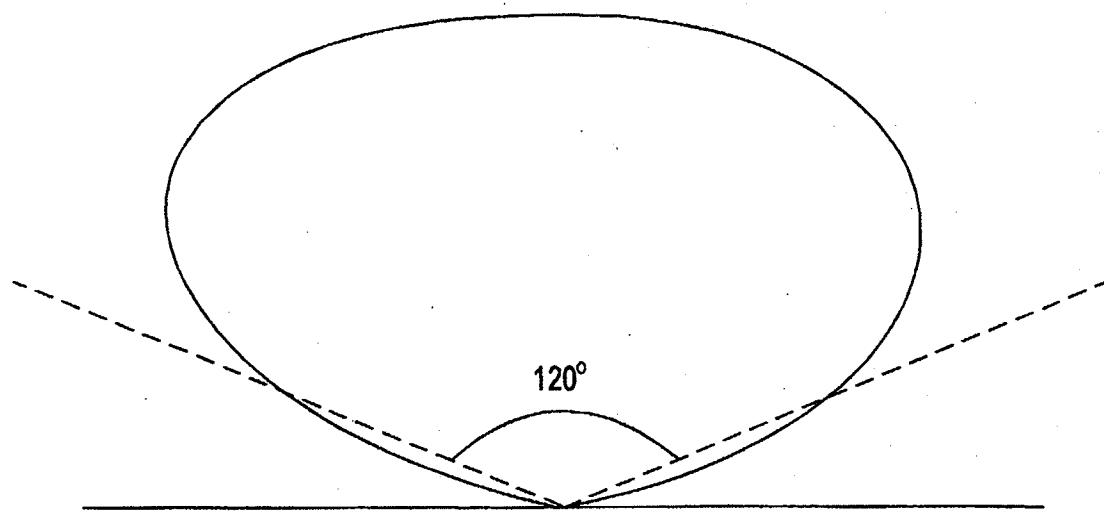


FIG. 63

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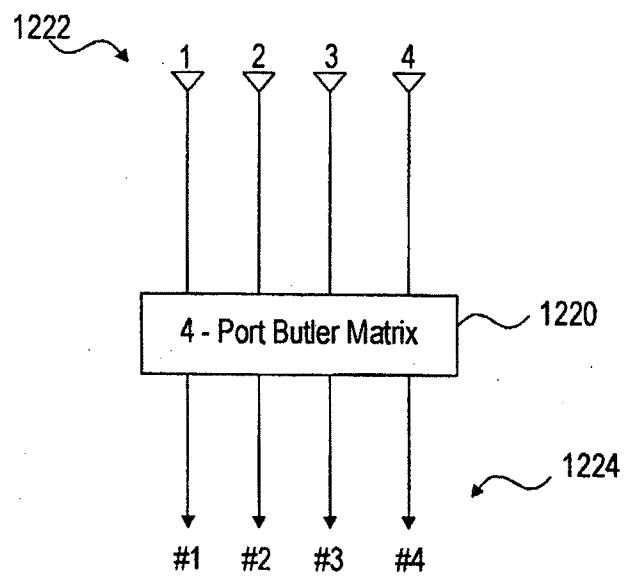
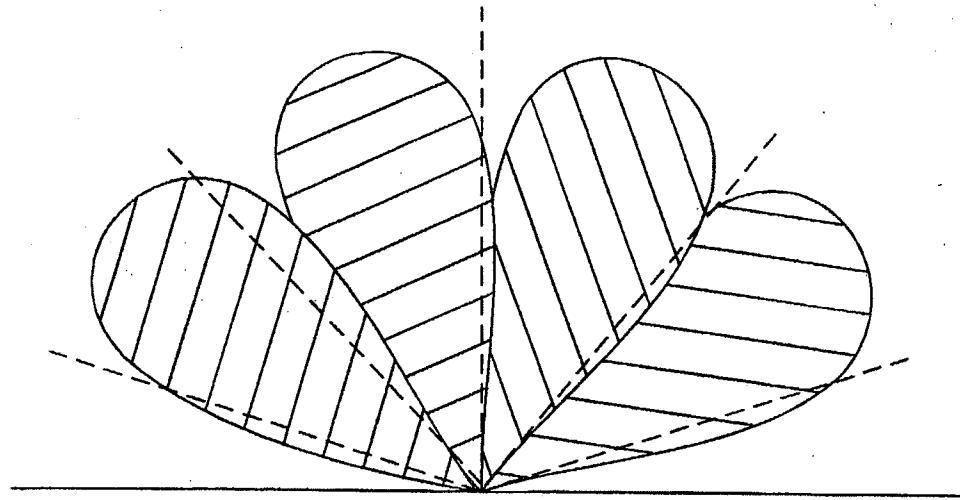
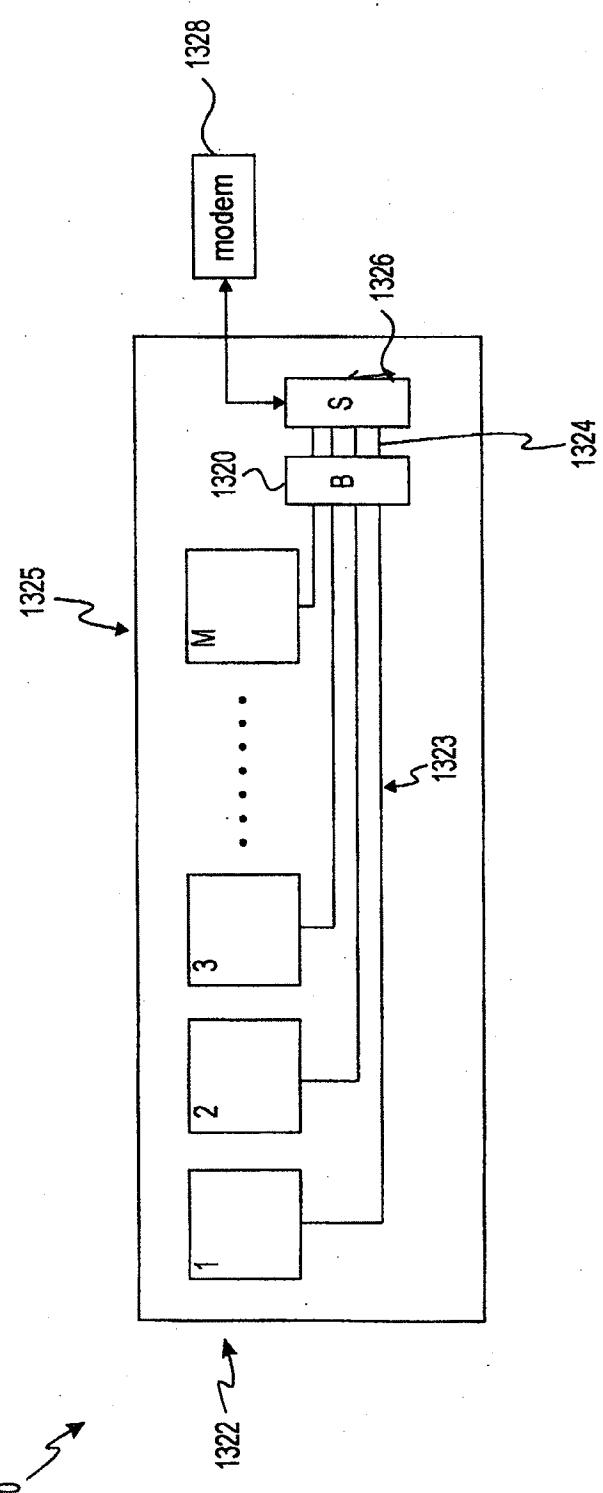
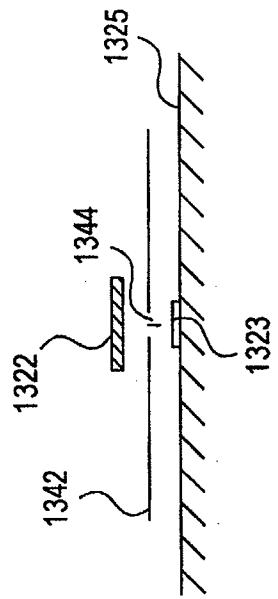


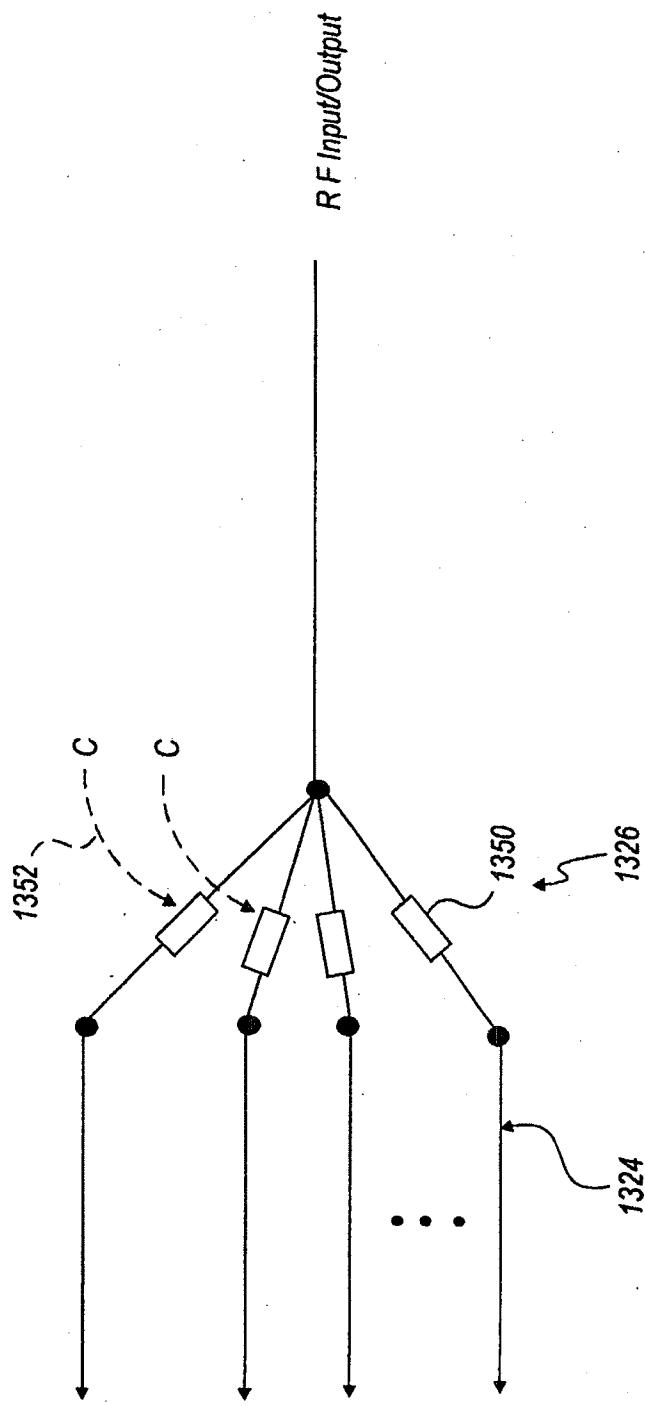
FIG. 64



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FIG. 66FIG. 67

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FIG. 68

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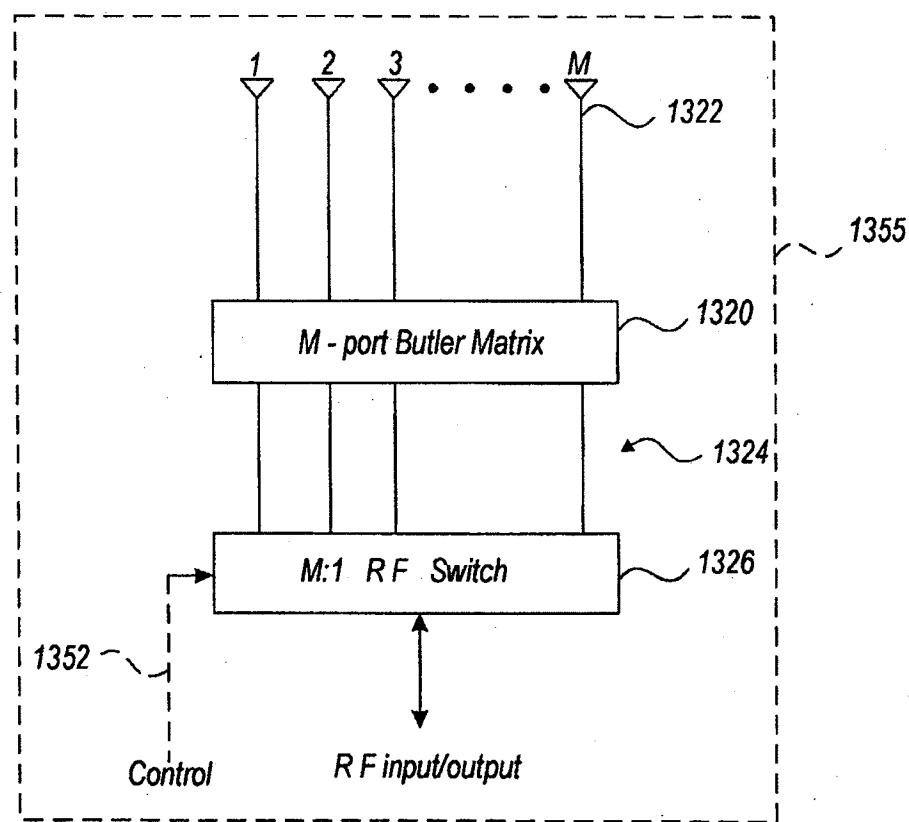


FIG. 69

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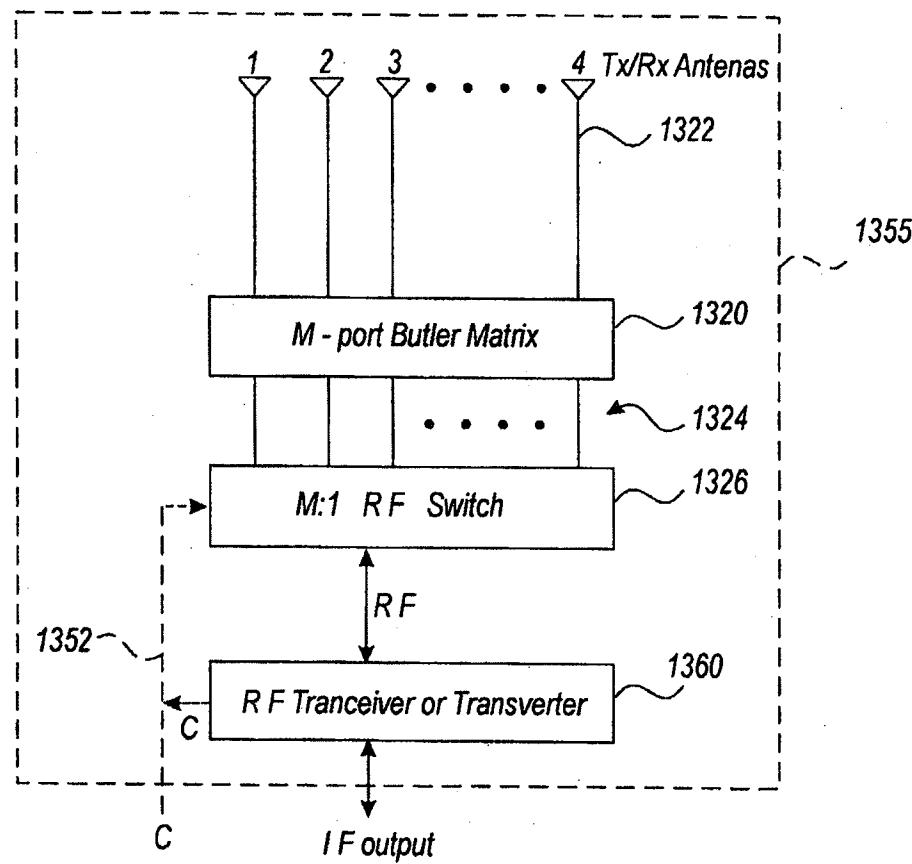


FIG. 70

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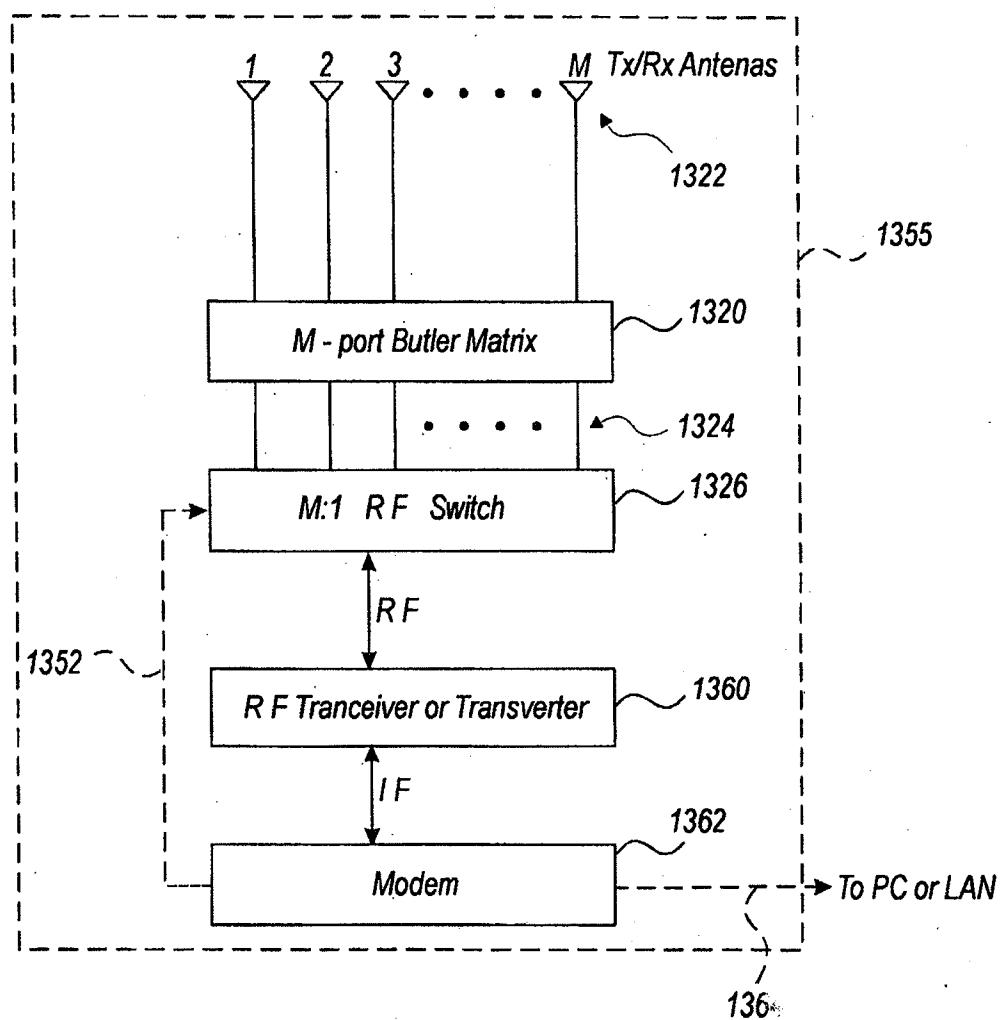
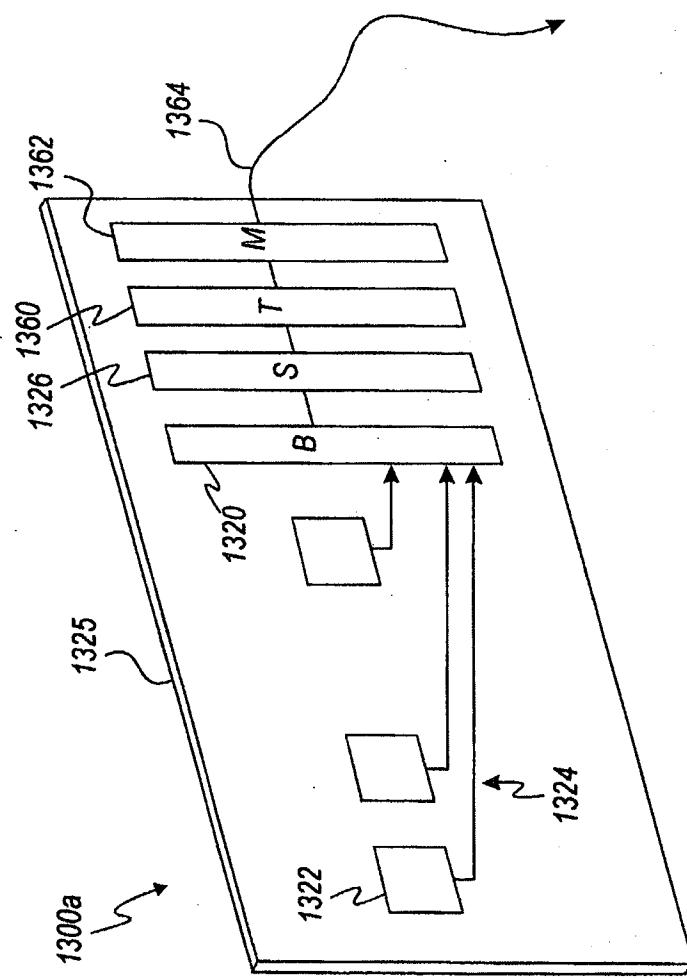


FIG. 71

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FIG. 72

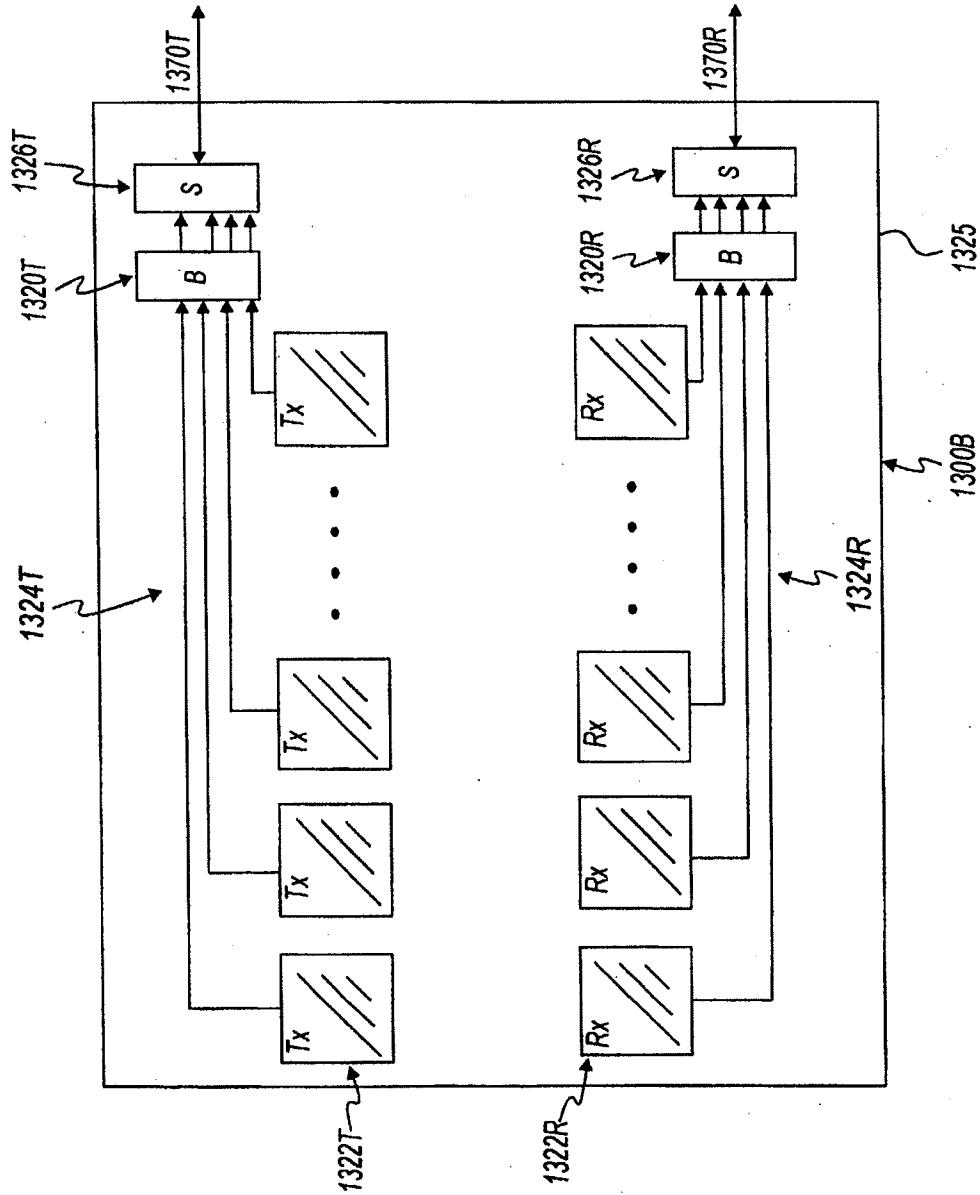
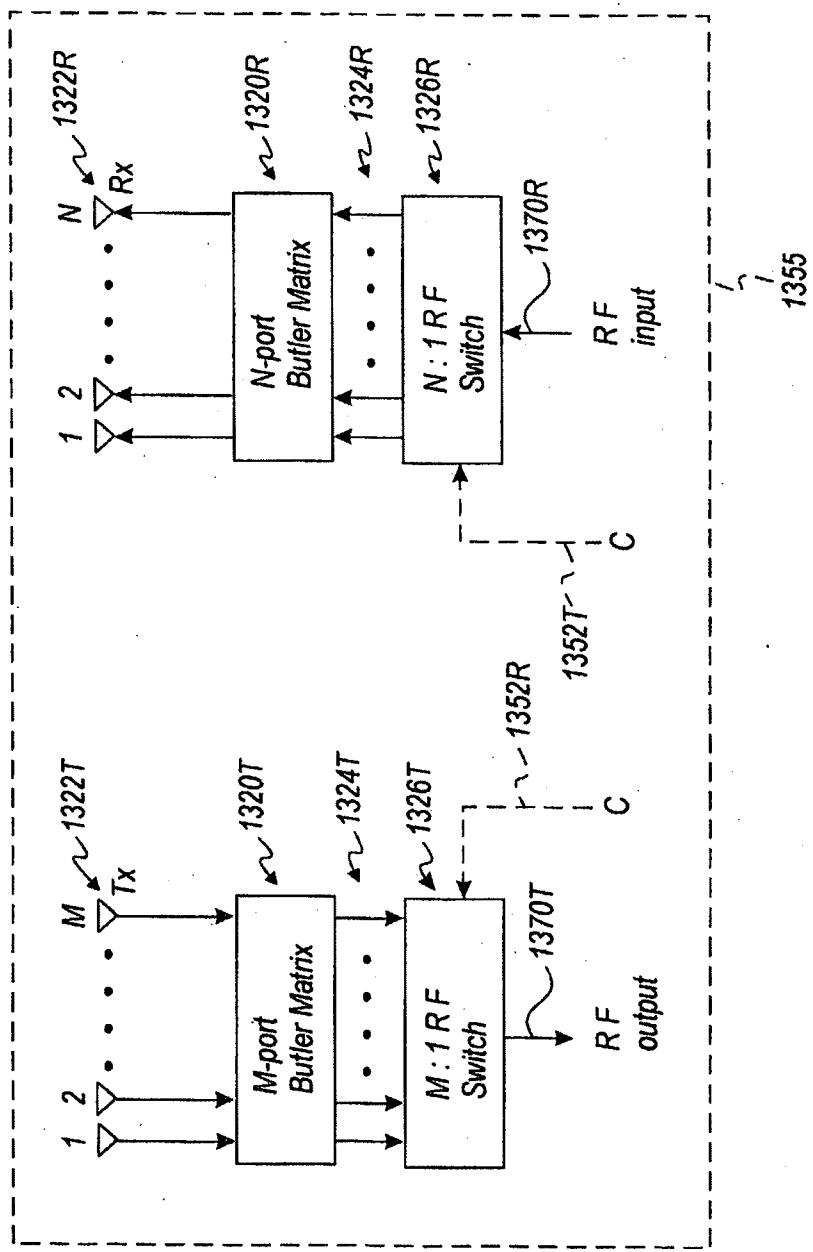


FIG. 73

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FIG. 74

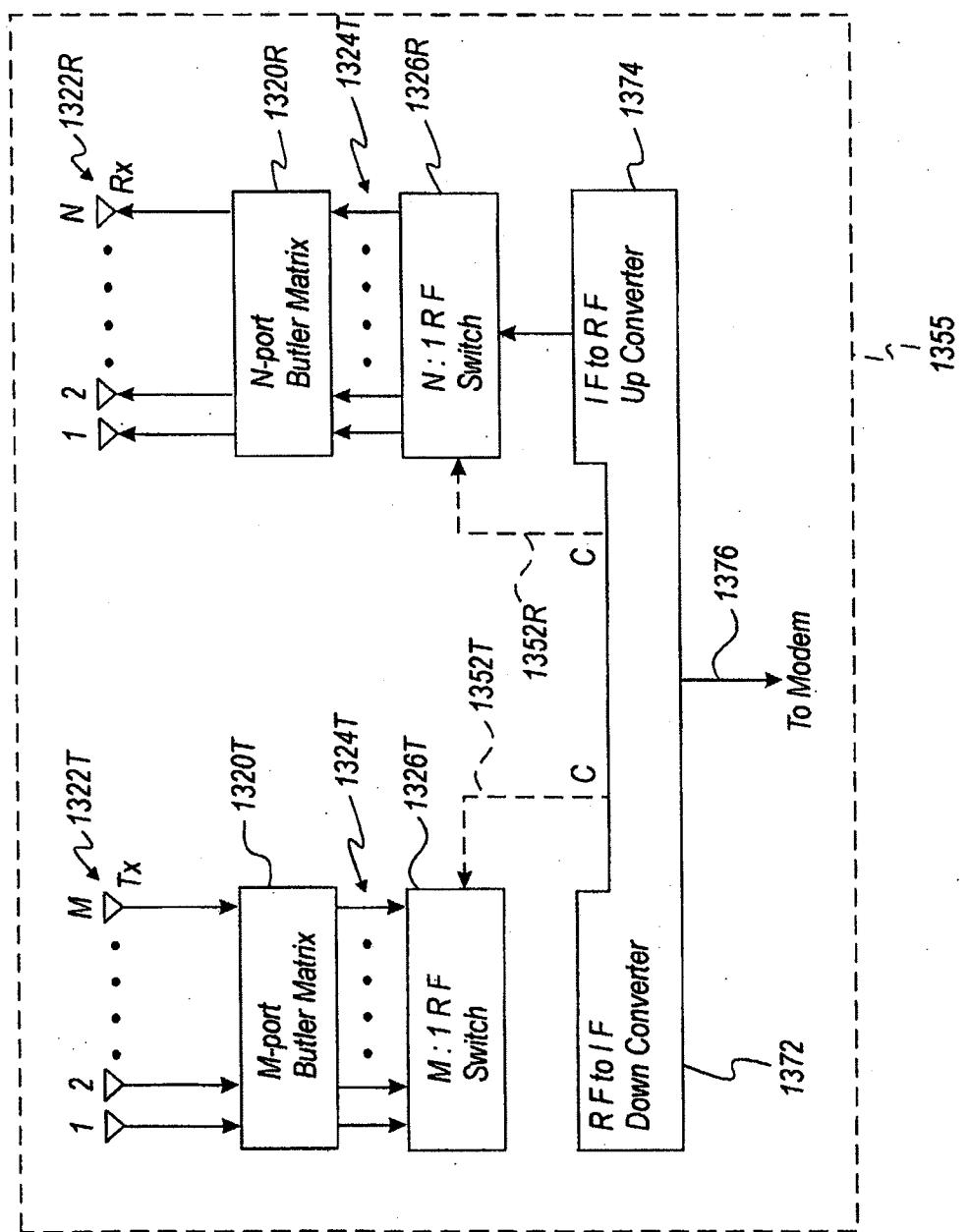


FIG. 75

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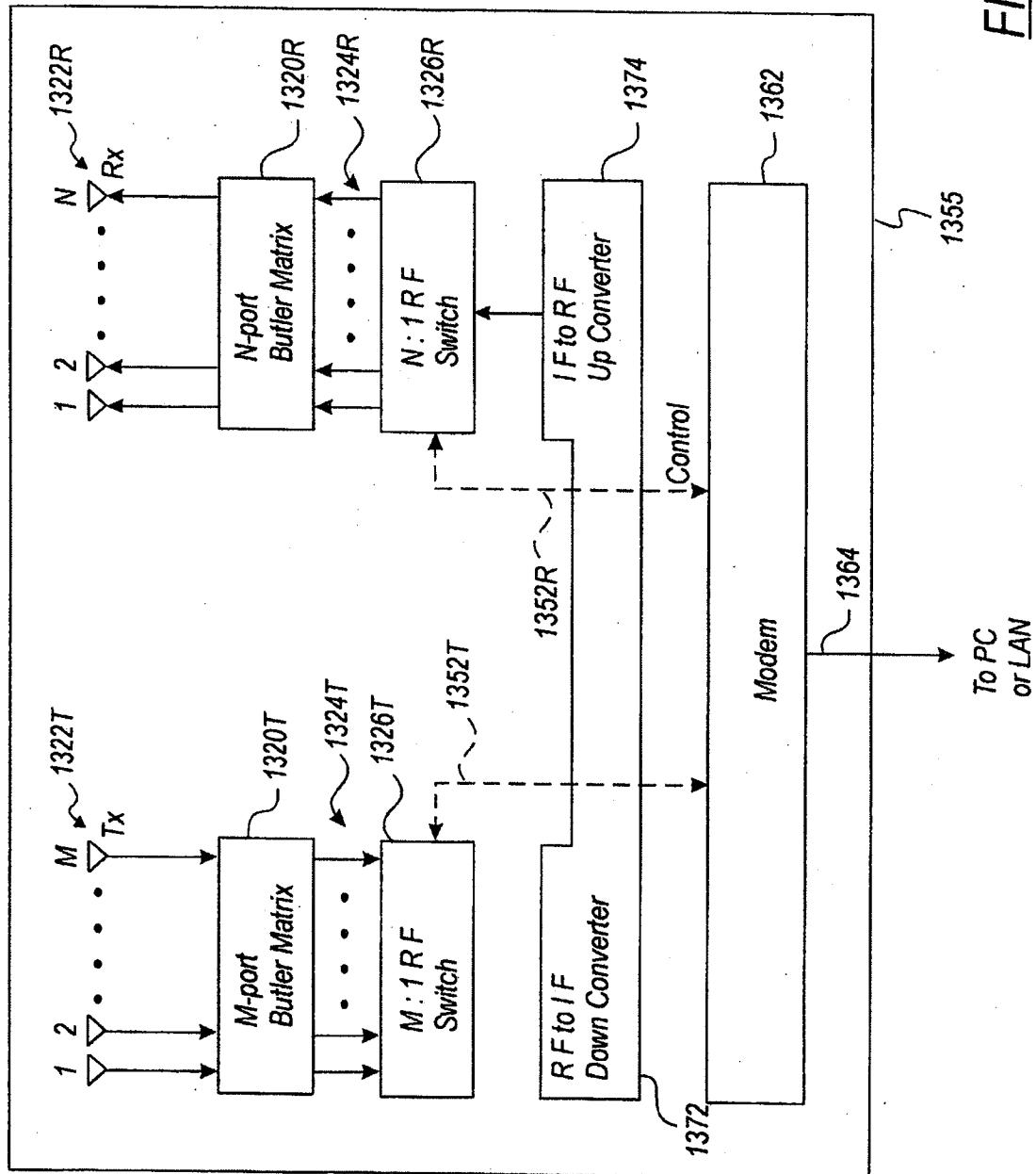


FIG. 76

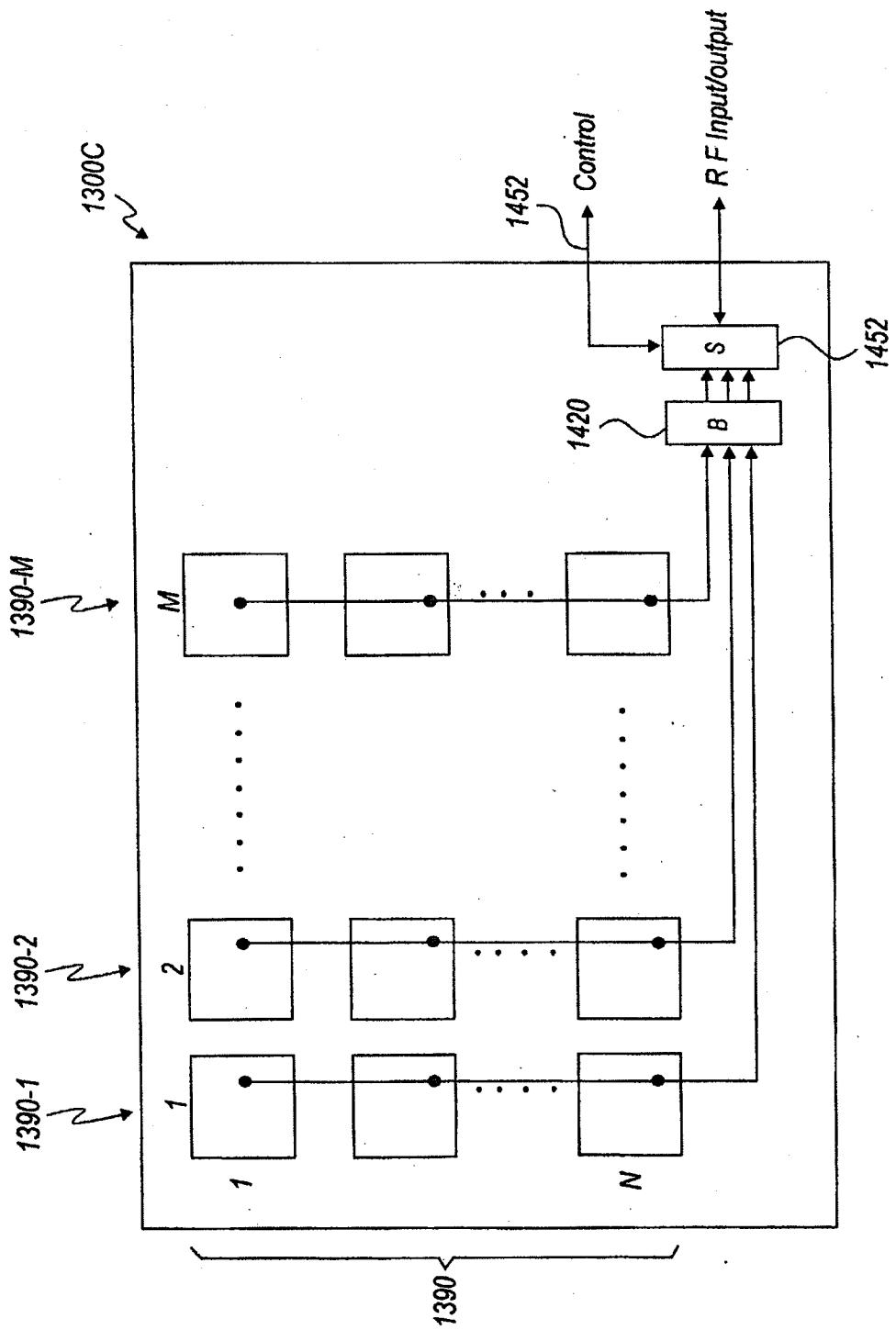


FIG. 77

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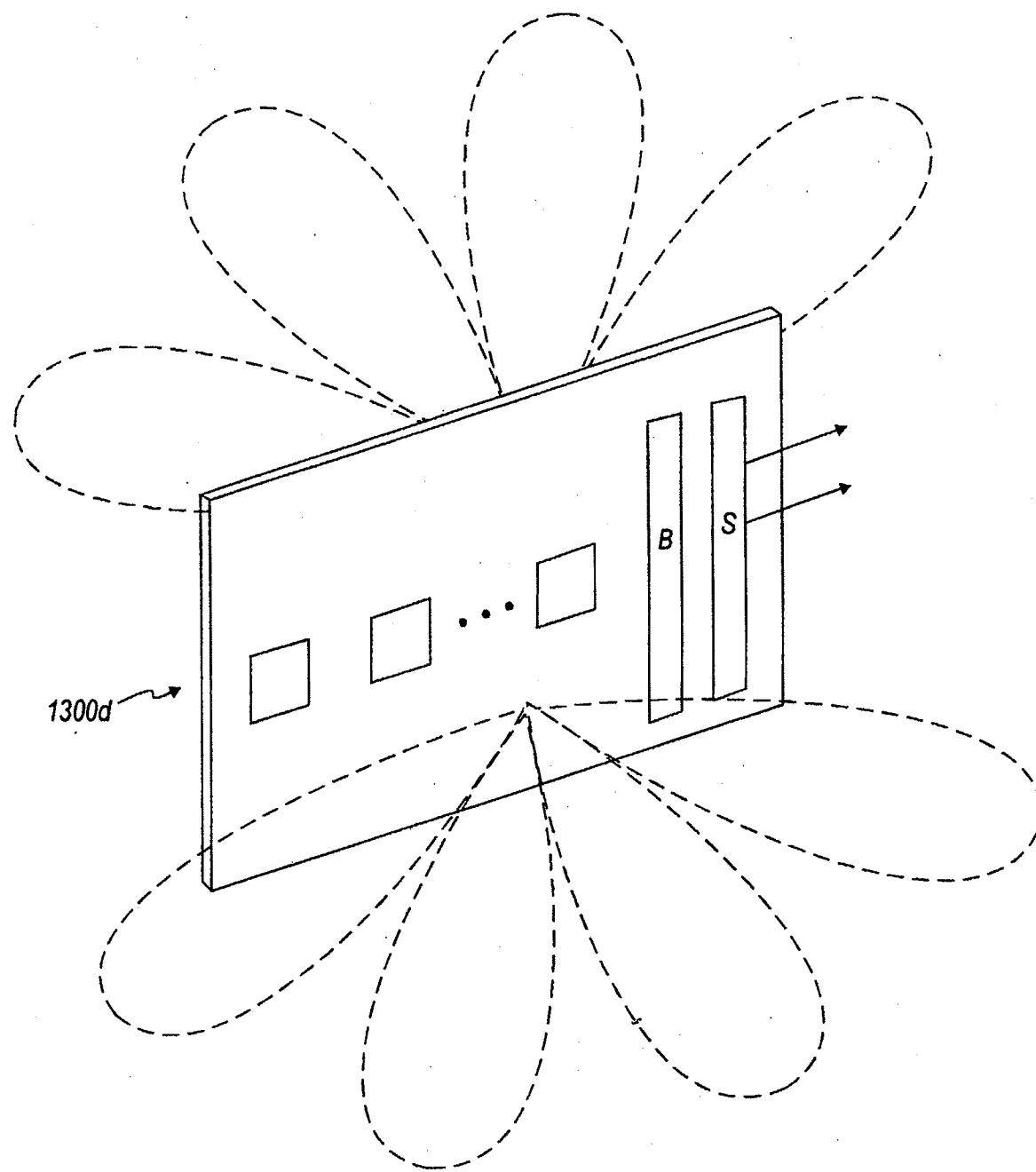


FIG. 78

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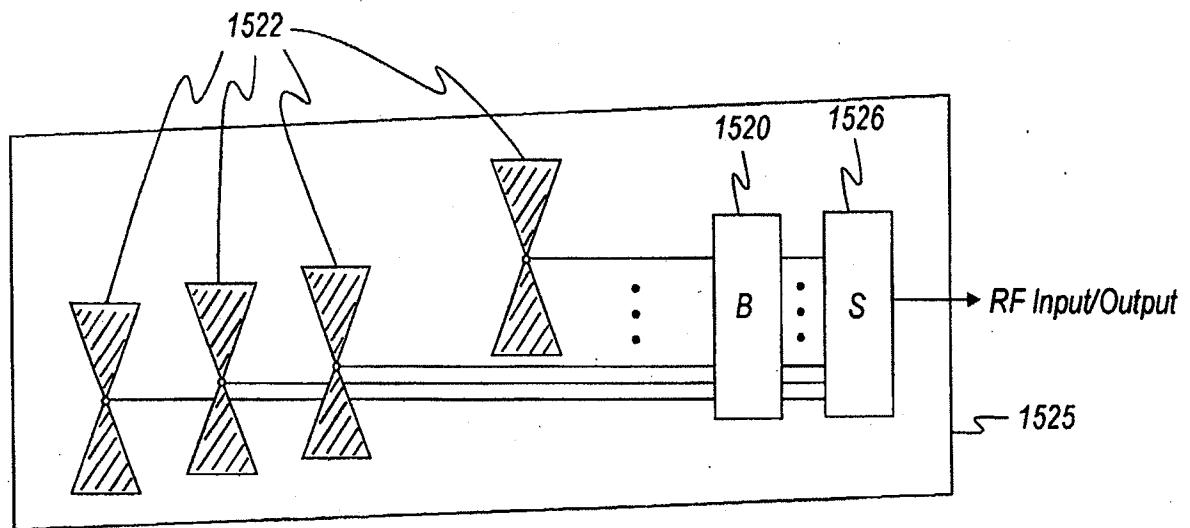


FIG. 79

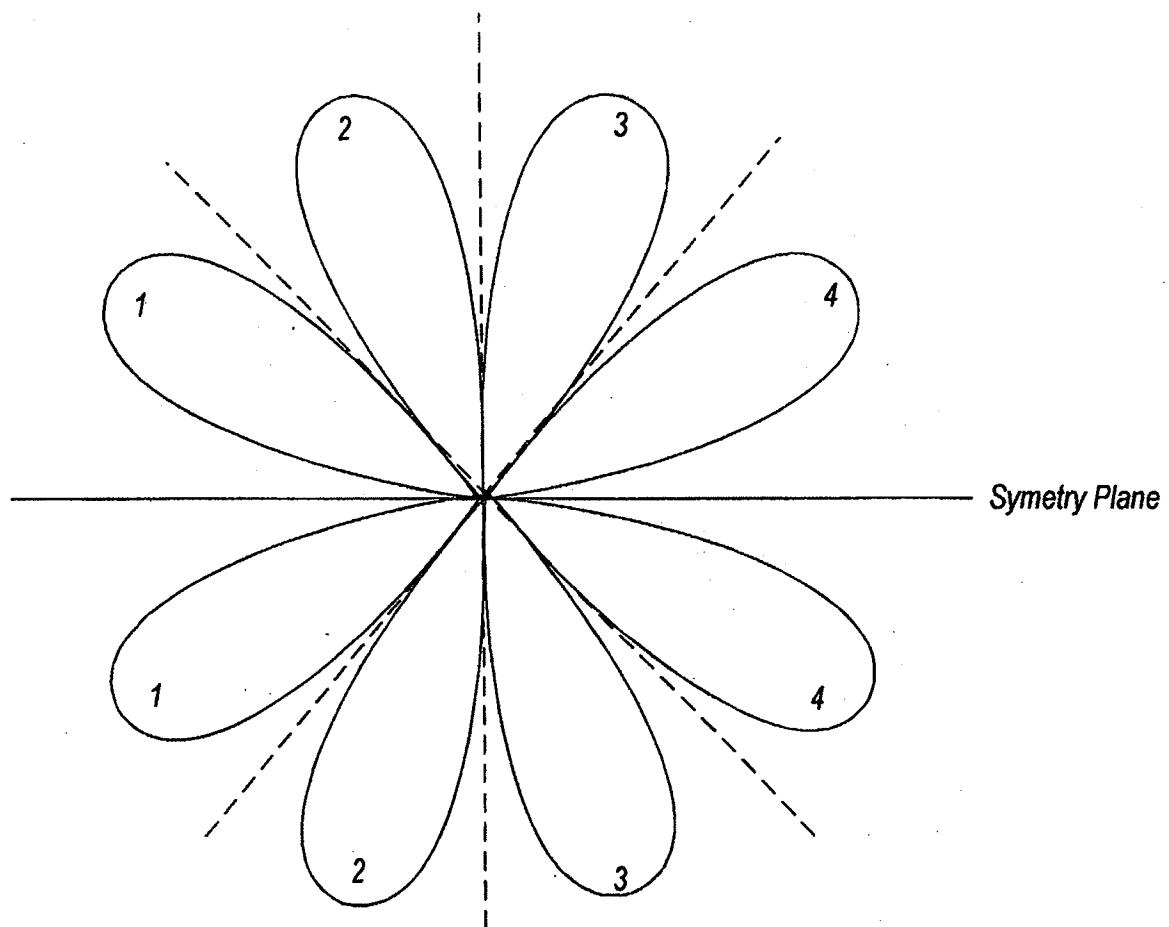
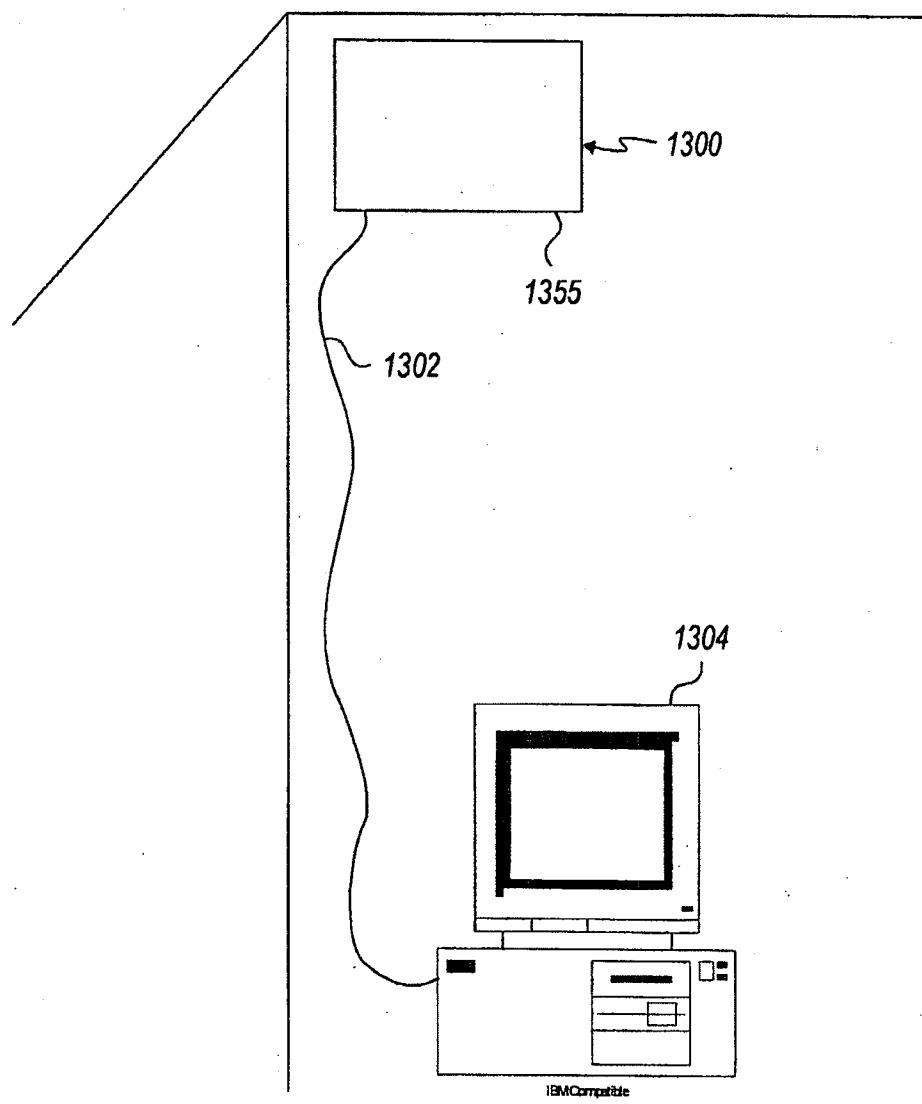


FIG. 80

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FIG. 81

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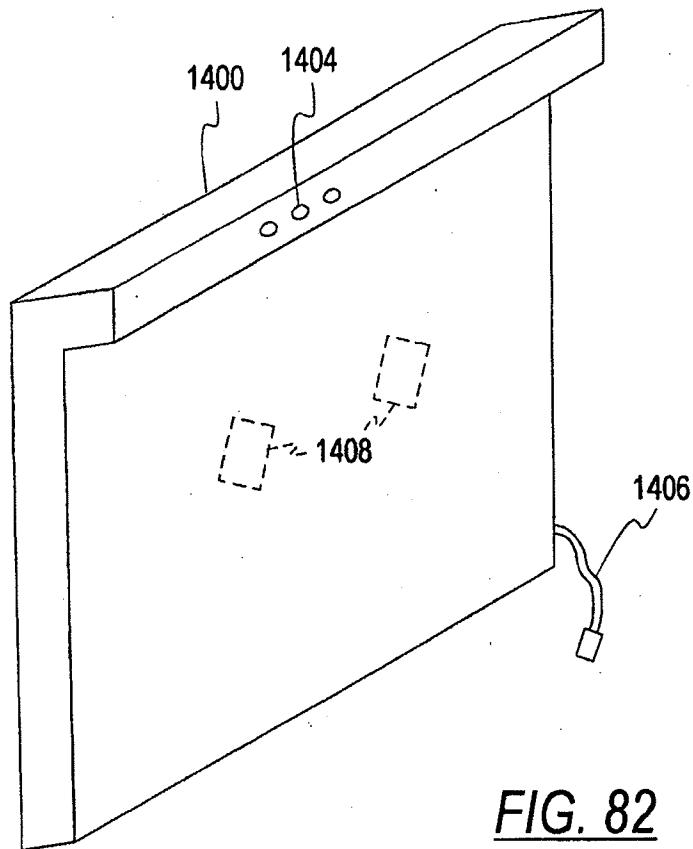


FIG. 82

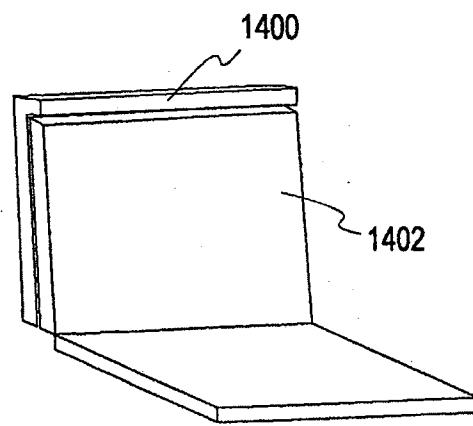
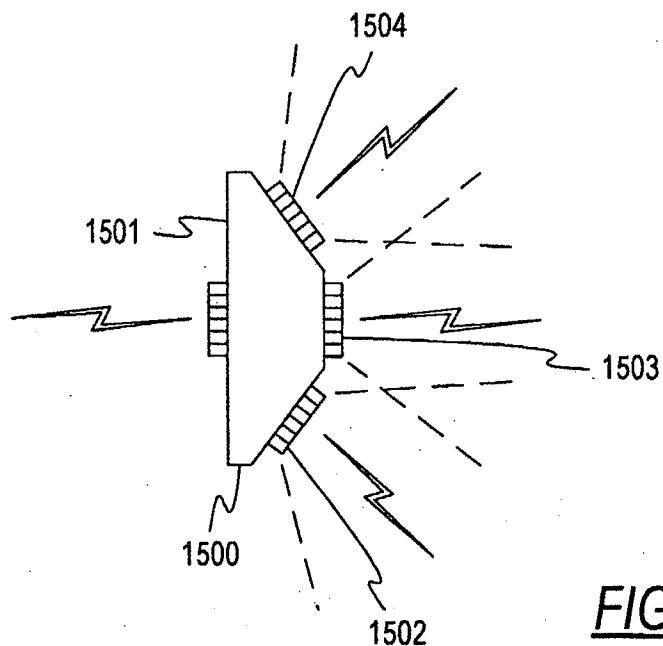
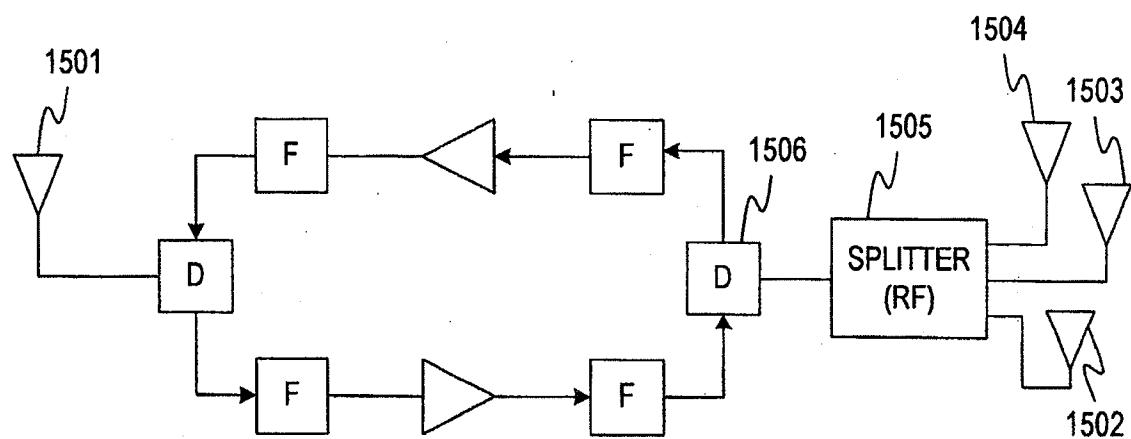
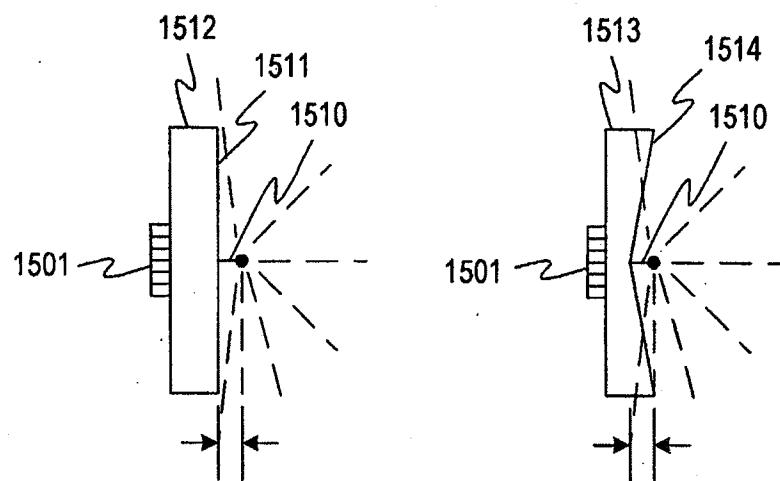


FIG. 83

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FIG. 84FIG. 85

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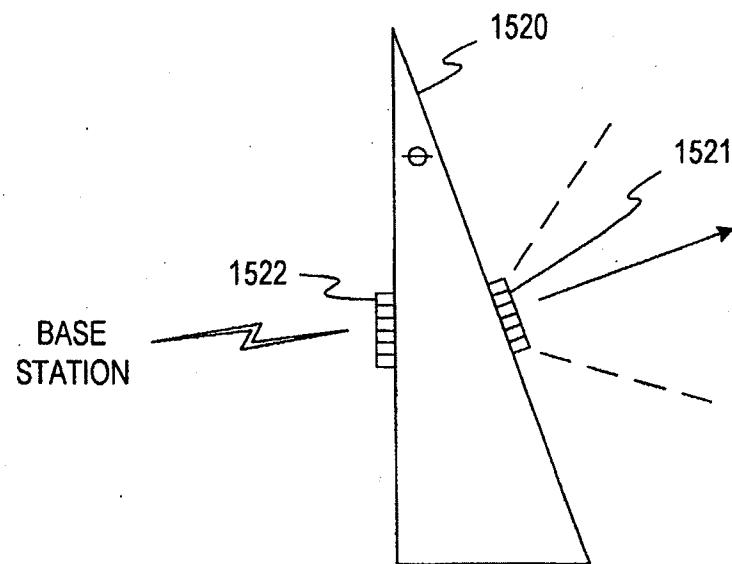
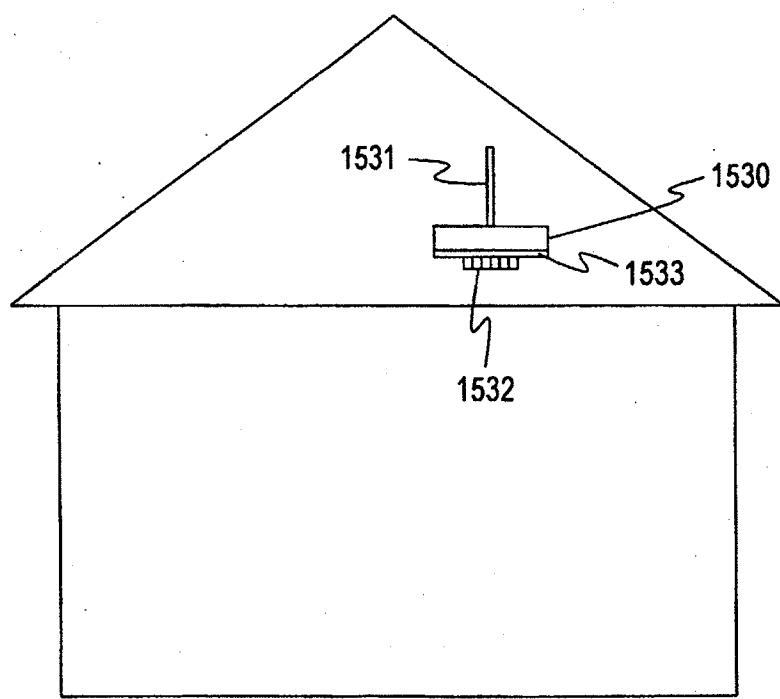
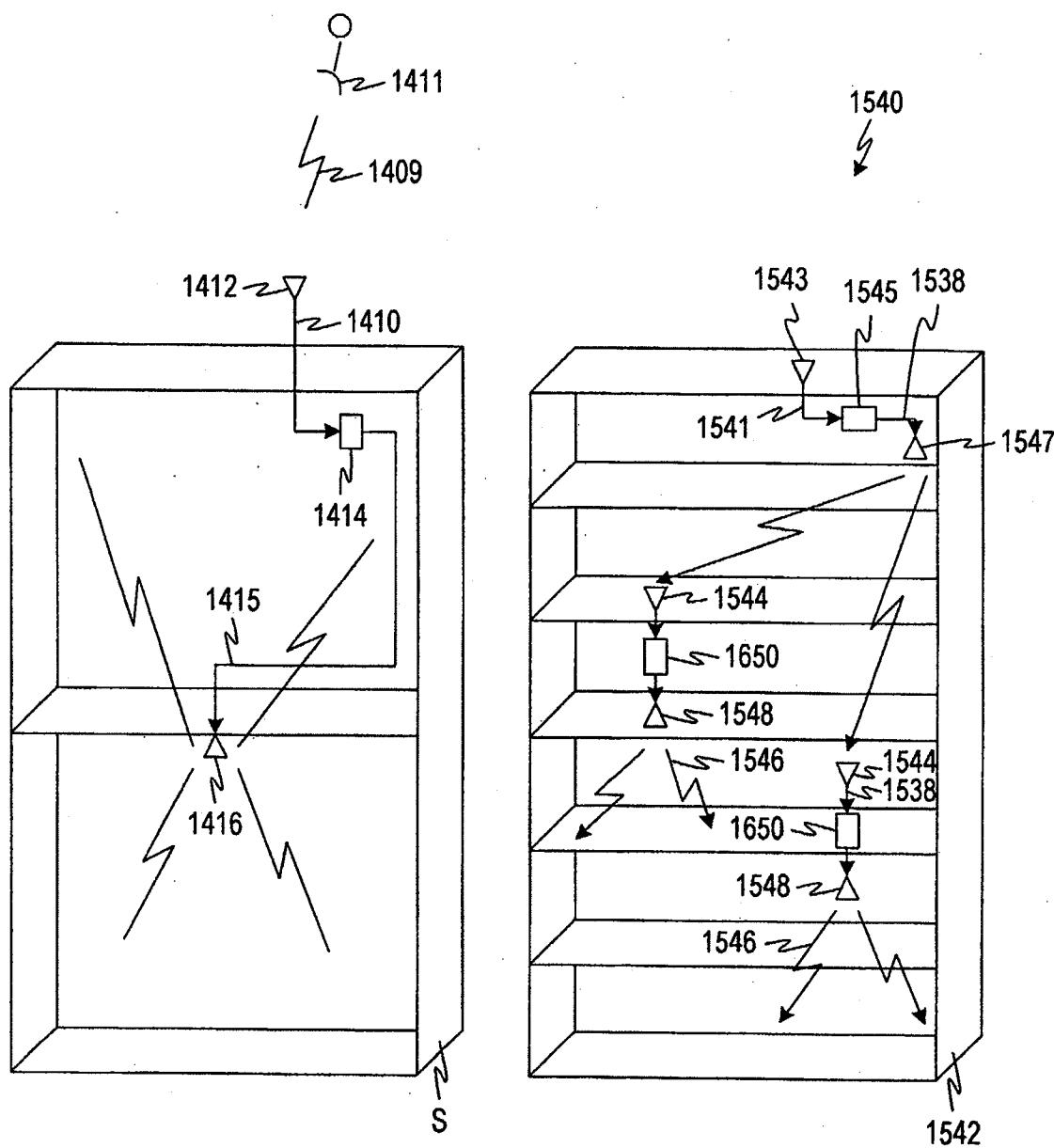


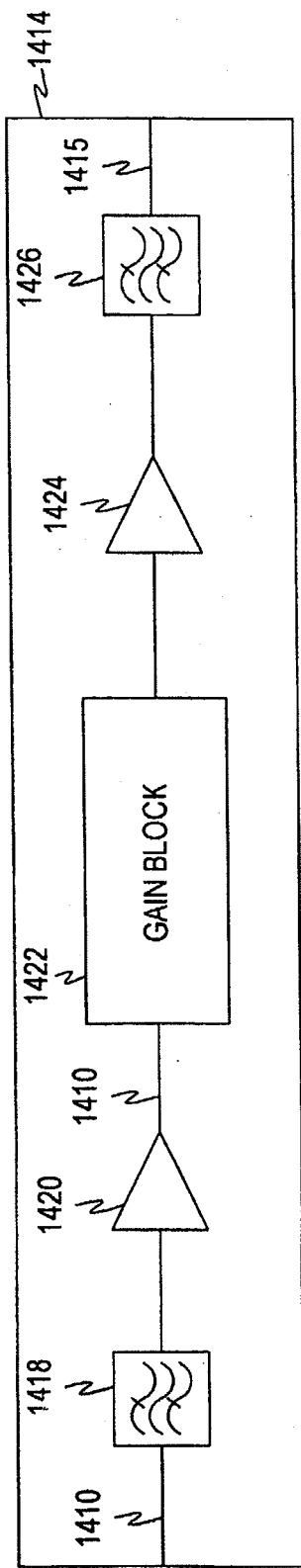
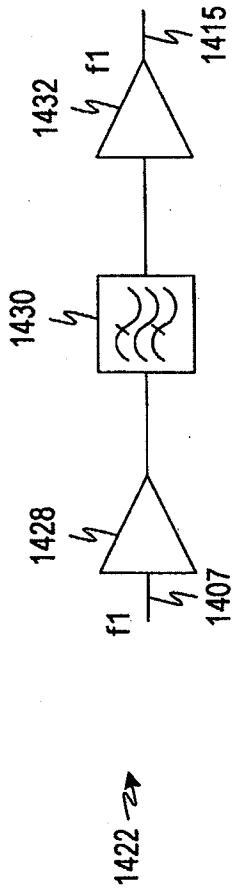
FIG. 88



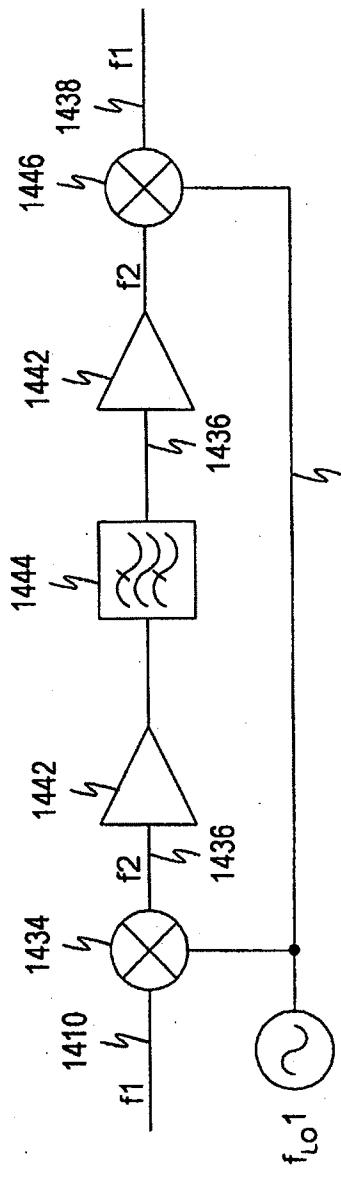
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FIG. 90FIG. 91

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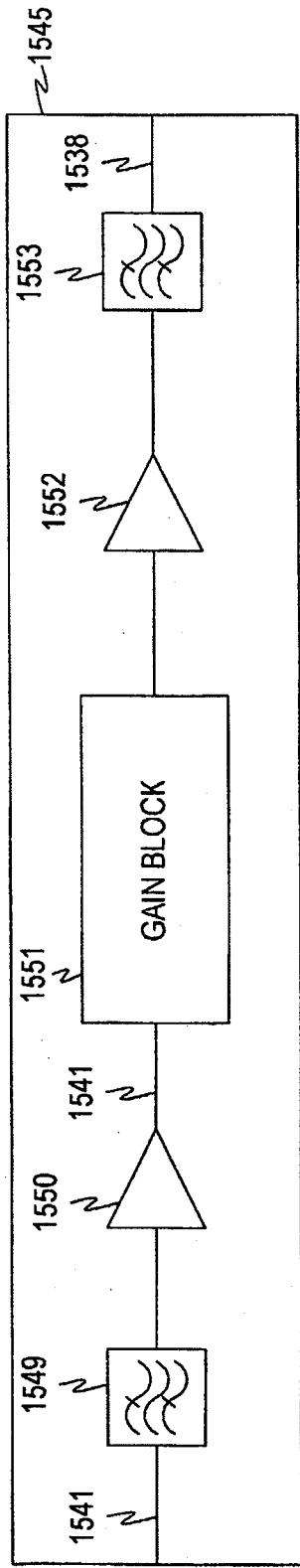
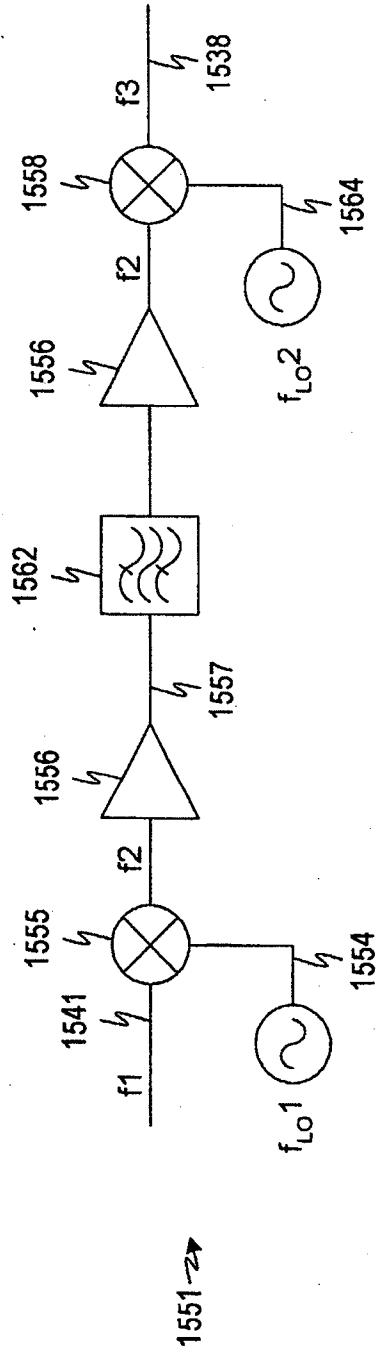
FIG. 92FIG. 93

1422 →

FIG. 94f_{lo}1

1422 →

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FIG. 95FIG. 96

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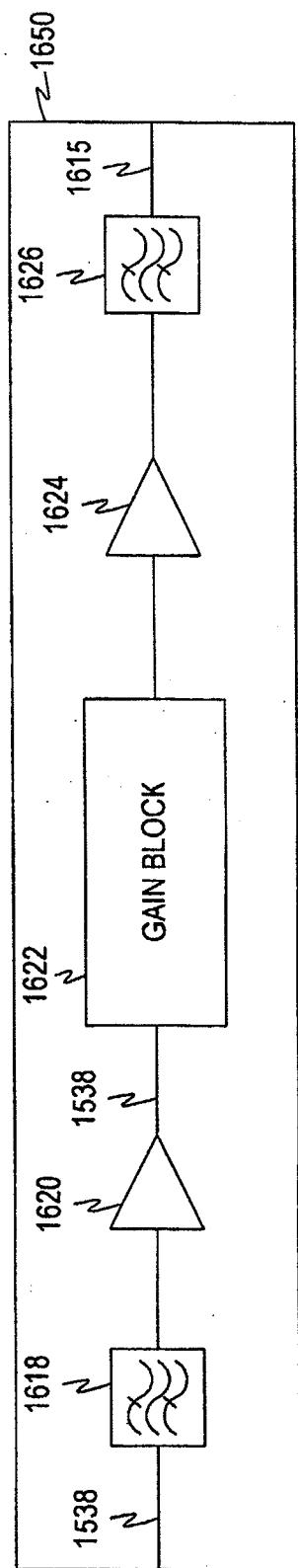


FIG. 97

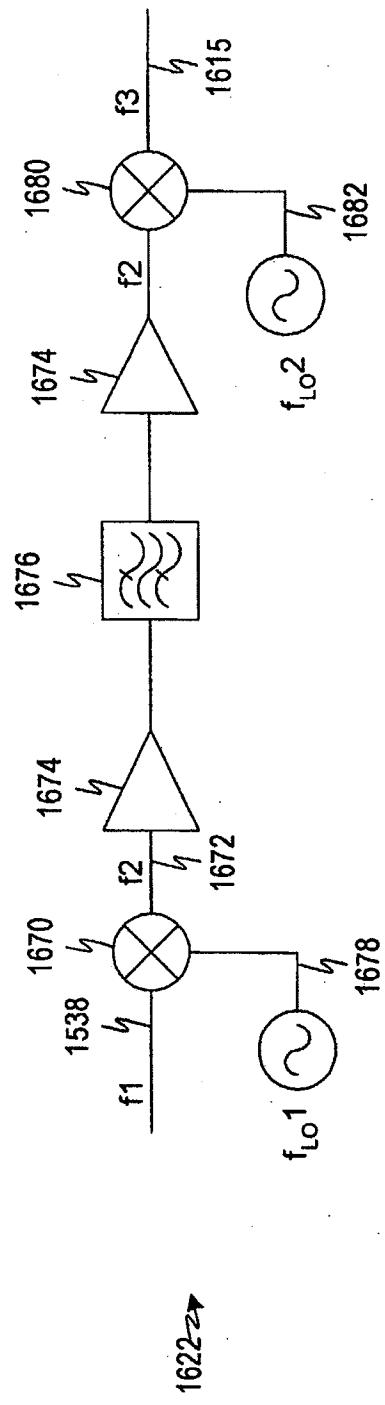


FIG. 98

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09/687,862	13 October 2000 (13.10.2000)	US
09/694,225	23 October 2000 (23.10.2000)	US
60/245,010	1 November 2000 (01.11.2000)	US

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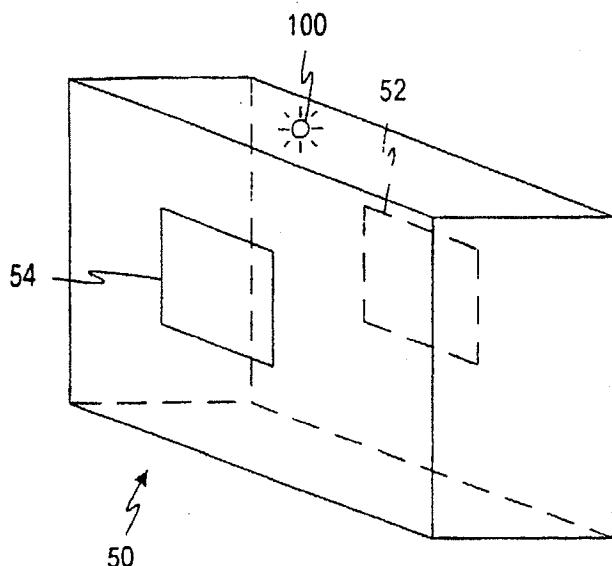
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Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: REPEATERS FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A flat-panel repeater includes a housing (50) having a pair of oppositely facing surfaces, at least one antenna element (52, 54) mounted to each of the surfaces for radiating energy in a direction opposite to that of an antenna element mounted to the other of the surfaces, and an electronic circuit mounted within the housing and operatively coupling signals between at least one antenna element on each of the oppositely facing surfaces of the module. Isolation between the antennas on opposite sides of the repeater is improved by various techniques, such as use of adaptive cancellation which removes a significant portion of the feedback signal power, therefore increasing the total system isolation by the same amount. This additional isolation can be used to achieve greater system gain, and therefore significantly extend the range of the system. The repeater may also include a beamforming arrangement for creating a desired antenna pattern of one antenna relative to a base station and a desired antenna pattern of the other antenna relative to subscriber equipment.



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

2 May 2002

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/01446

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04B 7/15
US CL : 455/11.1, 561, 562; 343/702, 824.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 455/11.1, 90, 561, 562; 343/702, 824.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST

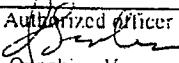
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X.PD--- D.Y.P	US 6,128,471 A (QUELCH et al) 03 October 2000 (03.10.2000), abstract, column 7, lines 7-16, and figure 6.	1 and 6.0----- -02-4, and 7.
Y	US 5,054,120 A (USHIYAMA et al) 01 October 1991 (01.10.1991), column 2, line 66 - column 3, line 12, and figure 4	2-4 and 7.
Y	US 5,930,694 A (SHIMA) 27 July 1999 (27.07.1999), column 2, line 10 - column 3, line 40.	2-4 and 7.
A	US 5,231,407 A (MCGIRR et al) 27 July 1993 (27.07.1993), abstract.	1-4, 6, and 7.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
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Special categories of cited documents:	
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
"I"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&"	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
05 April 2001 (05.04.2001)	25 JAN 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US	Authorized Officer
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	 Quochien Vuong

Faxsimile No. (703)305-3230	Telephone No. (703) 306-4530
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/01446

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claim Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claim Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claim Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-4, 6, and 7

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/01446

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

Group I, claim(s) 1-4 and 6-7, drawn to a flat panel signal repeater for extending coverage in PCS, cellular, MMDS, and other communication systems comprising antennas and frame support.

Group II, claim(s) 5, drawn to a signal repeater with mounted bracket for rotation to align antennas.

Group III, claim(s) 8-32, drawn to a signal repeater with specific antennas (i.e., microstrip patches, dipoles).

(Please see the continuation sheet)

Group IV, claim(s) 33-50 and 81-101, drawn to a signal repeater and method with feedback suppression.

Group V, claim(s) 51-55, drawn to a repeater with RF feedback suppression choke structure in the feedback path between antennas.

Group VI, claim(s) 56-71, drawn to an extremely compact, self-contained, easy-to-install signal repeater.

Group VII, claim(s) 72-78, drawn to a flat panel signal repeater with unitary structure, RF choke structure around face of at least one antennas and a dielectric radome contiguous to the choke.

Group VIII, claim(s) 79-80, drawn to a flat panel signal repeater with antennas and electronically intervening amplification electronics which introduces a phase shift.

Group IX, claim(s) 102-119, drawn to a signal repeater system comprising: antennas, RF uplink and downlink, and an adaptive cancellation circuit.

Group X, claim(s) 120-138 and 182-192, drawn to an integrated repeater and method comprising: a housing, antennas, repeater electronics, and beamforming arrangement for creating desired antenna pattern.

Group XI, claim(s) 139-173 and 193-205, drawn to an integrated repeater and method comprising: a housing, antennas, repeater electronics with interference cancellation.

Group XII, claim(s) 174-181, drawn to an integrated repeater comprising: a housing, antennas each comprises a relative flat antenna.

Group XIII, claim(s) 206, drawn to an integrated repeater comprising: a housing, antennas, repeater electronics, and a solar power battery mounted to the housing.

Group XIV, claim(s) 207-218, drawn to a repeater diversity system.

Group XV, claim(s) 219-241, drawn to a radio frequency switched beam planar antenna system.

Group XVI, claim(s) 242-276, drawn to a method and repeater for re-transmitting GPS signal.

Group XVIII, claim(s) 277-288, drawn to a method and repeater for re-transmitting satellite signal.